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TARTARIAN, OR HUNTING INDIAN,

Inhabiting the Inland parts of North America.

ESQUIMAUX, OR FISHING INDIAN,

Inhabiting the Sea-Coasts of Labrador and Davis's Strait.

Published by J. Mawman Feb. 20th 1818

VOYAGE

OF

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ROSAMOND

TO

NEWFOUNDLAND

AND THE

SOUTHERN COAST

OF

LABRADOR

OF WHICH COUNTRIES

NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY ANY BRITISH TRAVELLER

SINCE THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

BY

LIEUT. EDWARD CHAPPELL, R.N.

AUTHOR OF A "VOYAGE TO HUDSON'S BAY."

LONDON:

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD VISCOUNT MELVILLE,

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,

&c. &c.

MY LORD,

In presuming to dedicate this small volume to your Lordship, I sincerely trust that I shall not risk incurring your Lordship's disapprobation. From whom can a Naval writer hope for protection, if not from the Noble Personage who has conferred so many benefits upon his Profession? To whom can a young Sailor look for support, if not to him who possesses such strong *hereditary* and *personal* claims to be denominated "THE SEAMAN'S FRIEND!"

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

Very obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD CHAPPELL.

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INTRODUCTION.

NEWFOUNDLAND was taken possession of by *Great Britain* during the reign of *Elizabeth;* but no voyager has attempted to give a description of this island, since the time of *James* the *First*. The accounts of this country, in *Gazetteers* and other compilations of the same kind, are entirely taken from the Journals of those navigators who visited *Newfoundland* in company with Sir *Humphrey Gilbert*, about the year 1583. This celebrated seaman perished, with his whole crew, in his voyage homewards;

wards; and, subsequently, a narrative of the expedition, written by Captain *Hayes*, the second in command, was published. *Hayes's* narrative contains the only information, of which the public are in possession, concerning that valuable colony; with the exception of a small tract, by Captain *Whitbourne*, printed about the same time; and *both* are now become rare. The reader will, perhaps, consider the narrative of *Hayes*, as derived from *Hakluyt*, a curious addition to this volume. To *Whitbourne's* book occasional reference will be made, in those instances where his observations are connected with the inquiries made by the author, during the voyage of the *Rosamond*.

" A briefe relation of the *Newfound lande*, and the commodities thereof.

" That which we doe call the *Newfoundland*, and the Frenchmen *Bacalaos*, is an

Iland, or rather (after the opinion of some) it consisteth of sundry Ilands and broken lands, situate in the *North* regions of *America*, vpon the gulfe and entrance of the great riuer called *S. Laurence* in *Canada*. Into the which, nauigation may be made both on the *South* and *North* side of this Iland. The land lyeth South and North, containing in length betweene three and 400 miles, accounting from Cape *Race* (which is in 46 degrees 25 minuts) vnto the *Grand* bay in 52 degrees of Septentrionall latitude. The Iland round about hath very many goodly bayes and harbors, safe roads for ships, the like not to be found in any part of the knowen world.

"The common opinion that is had of intemperature and extreme cold that should be in this countrey, as of some part it may be verified, namely the *North*, where I grant it is more colde then in countries of *Europe*,

Europe, which are vnder the same eleuation: euen so it cannot stand with reason and nature of the clime, that the *South* parts should be so intemperate as the bruit hath gone. For as the same doe lie vnder the climats of *Briton, Aniou, Poictou,* in *France,* betweene 46 and 49 degrees, so can they not so much differ from the temperature of those countries: vnlesse vpon the out coast lying open vnto the Ocean and sharpe windes, it must in neede be subject to more colde, then further within the lande, where the mountaines are interposed, as walles and bulwarkes, to defend and to resist the asperitie and rigor of the sea and weather.—Some hold opinion, that the *Newfound land* might be the more suiect to cold, by how much it lyeth high and neere vnto the middle region.—I grant that not in *Newfoundland* alone, but in *Germany, Italy,* and *Afrike,* euen vnder the Equinoctiall line, the mountaines are extreme cold, and seeldome uncouered

uncouered of snow, in their culme and highest tops, which commeth to passe by the same reason that they are extended towards the middle region: yet in the countries lying beneth them, it is found quite contrary. Euen so all hils hauing their discents, the valleis also and low grounds must be likewise hot or temperate, as the clime doeth giue in *Newfoundland:* though I am of opinion that the Sunnes reflection is much cooled, and cannot be so forcible in the *Newfound land* nor generally throughout *America,* as in *Europe* or *Afrike:* by how much the Sunne in his diurnall course from *East* to *West,* passeth ouer (for the most part) dry land and sandy countries, before he arriueth at the West of *Europe* or *Afrike,* whereby his motion increaseth heate, with little or no qualification by moyst vapours. Where, on the contrarie, he passeth from *Europe* and *Afrike* vnto *America* ouer the

Ocean, from whence it draweth and carieth with him abundance of moyst vapours, which doe qualifie and infeeble greatly the sunne's reuerberation vpon this countrey chiefly of *Newfoundland*, being so much to the *Northward*. Neuerthelesse (as I sayd before) the cold cannot be so intollerable vnder the latitude of 46. 47 and 48. especiall within land, that it should be unhabitable, as some doe suppose, seeing also there are very many people more to the *North* by a great deale. And in these *South* parts there be certaine beastes, *Ounces* or *Leopards*, and birdes in like manner which in the Sommer we haue seene, not heard of in countries of extreme and vehement coldnesse. Besides as in the monethes of June, July, August, and September, the heate is somewhat more then in *England* at those seasons: so men remaining vpon the *South* parts neere vnto Cape *Rece*, vntill after Hollandtide, haue not found the cold

so

so extreme; nor much differing from the temperature of *England.* Those which haue arriued there after *Nouember* and *December* haue found the snow exceeding deepe, whereat no maruaile, considering the ground vpon the coast, is rough and vneuen, and the snow is driuen into the places most declyning, as the like is to be seene with vs. The like depth of snow happily shall not be found within land vpon the playner countries, which also are defended by the mountaines, breaking off the violence of the winds and weather. But admitting extraordinary cold in those *South* parts, aboue that with us here: it cannot be so great as that in *Swedland,* much less, in *Muscouia* or *Russia;* yet are the same countries very populous, and the rigor of cold is dispensed with by the commoditie of Stoues, warme clothing, meats and drinkes: all which neede not to be wanting in the *Newfound land,* if we had intent there to inhabite.

"In the *South* parts we found no inhabitants, which by all likelihood haue abandoned those coastes, the same being so much frequented by Christians: But in the *North* are sauages altogether harmlesse. Touching the commodities of this countrie, seruing either for sustentation of inhabitants, or for maintenance of traffique, there are and may be made diuers: so and it seemeth Nature hath recompenced that only defect and incommoditie of some sharpe cold, by many benefits: viz. With incredible quantitie, and no lesse varietie of kindes of fish in the sea and fresh waters, as *Trouts*, *Salmons*, and other fish to us vnknowen: Also *Cod* which alone draweth many nations thither, and is become the most famous fishing of the world. Abundance of *whales*, for which also is a very great trade in the bayes of *Placentia*, and the *Grand* Bay, where is made trane oiles of the *whale*. *Herring*, the largest that haue bene heard of,

of, and exceeding the *alstrond herring* of *Norway*: but hitherto was never benefit taken of the *herring* fishing. There are sundry other fish very delicate, namely the *Bonito, Lobsters, Turbut,* with others infinite not sought after: *Oysters* having pearle but not orient in colour: I tooke it by reason they were not gathered in season.

"Concerning the inland commodities, as wel to be drawen from this land, as from the exceeding large countries adioyning: there is nothing which our *East* and *Northerly* countries of *Europe* doe yeelde, but the like also may be made in them as plentifully by time and industrie: Namely, *rosen, pitch, tarre, sope ashes, deel boord, mastes* for ships, *hides, furres, flaxe, hempe, corne, cables, cordage, linnen-cloth, mettals,* and many more. All which the countries will aford, and the soyle is apt to yeelde.

"The

"The trees for the most in those *South* parts, are *Firre* trees, *Pine* and *Cypresse*, all yielding *Gumme* and *Turpentine*. *Cherrie* trees bearing fruit no bigger then a small pease. Also *peare* trees, but fruitlesse. Other trees of some sorts to us unknowen.

"The soyle along the coast is not deepe of earth, bringing foorth abundantly *peason* small, yet good feeding for cattel. *Roses*, passing sweet, like vnto our muske roses in forme, *raspases*, a berry which we call *Harts*, good and holesome to eat. The grasse and herbe doth fat sheepe in very short space, proued by *English* marchants which haue caried sheepe thither for fresh victuall and had them raised exceeding fat in lesse than three weekes. *Peason* which our countreymen haue sowen in the time of *May*, haue come vp faire, and bene gathered in the beginning of *August*, of which

which our Generall had a present acceptable for the rarenesse, being the first fruits coming vp by art and industrie, in that desolate and dishabited land.

" Lakes or pools of fresh water, both on the tops of mountaines and in the vallies. In which are said to be muskles not vnlike to haue pearle, which I had put in triall, if by mischance falling vnto me, I had not bene letted from that and other good experiments I was minded to make.

" *Foule* both of water and land in great plentie and diuersitie. All kind of *greene foule:* Others as bigge as bustards, yet not the same. A great white *foule* called of some a *Gaunt.*

" Upon the land diuers sorts of haukes, as *faulcons,* and others by report: *Partridges* most plentifull larger then ours, gray and

and white of colour, and rough footed like doues, which our men after one flight did kill with cudgels, they were so fat and unable to flie. Birds, some like *blackbirds*, *linnets*, *canary birds*, and other very small. Beasts of sundry kindes, *red deare*, *buffles* or a beast, as it seemeth by the tract and foote very large in maner of an oxe. *Beares*, *ounces* or *leopards*, some greater and some lesser, *wolues*, *foxes*, which to the *Northward* a little further are black, whose furre is esteemed in some countries of *Europe* very rich. *Otters*, *beauers*, *marternes*. And in the opinion of most men saw it, the Generall had brought vnto him a *Sable* aliue, which he sent vnto his brother Sir *John Gilbert* knight of *Deuonshire*: but it was neuer deliuered, as after I vnderstood. We could not obserue the hundredth part of creatures in those vnhabited lands: but these mentioned may induce vs to glorifie the magnificent God, who hath super-

superabundantly replenished the earth with creatures seruing for the vse of man, though man hath not vsed the fift part of the same, which the more doth aggrauate the fault and foolish slouth in many of our nation, ohusing rather to liue indirectly, and very miserably to liue and die within this realme pestered with inhabitants, then to aduenture as becommeth men, to obtaine an habitation in those remote lands, in which Nature very prodigally doth minister vnto mens endeauours, and for art to worke vpon.

"For besides these alreadie recounted and infinite moe, the mountaines generally make shew of minerall substance: *Iron* very common, *lead*, and somewhere *copper*. I will not auerre of richer mettals: albeit by the circumstances following, more then hope may be conceiued thereof.

"For

"For amongst other charges giuen to inquire out the singularities of this countrey, the Generall was most curious in the search of mettals, commanding the minerall man and refiner, especially to be diligent. The same was a *Saxon* borne, honest, and religious, named *Daniel*. Who after search brought at first some sort of *Ore*, seeming rather to be *iron* then other mettall. The next time he found *Ore*, which with no smal shew of contentment he deliuered vnto the Generall, vsing protestation, that if *siluer* were the thing which might satisfie the Generall, and his followers, there it was, aduising him to seeke no further: the perill whereof he vndertooke vpon his life (as deare vnto him as the Crowne of *England* vnto her Maiestie, that I may vse his owne words) if it fell not out accordingly.

"My

"My selfe at this instant liker to die then to liue; by a mischance, could not follow this confident opinion of our refiner to my owne satisfaction: but afterward demanding our Generals opinion therein, and to haue some part of the *Ore*, he replied: 'Content your selfe, I haue seene enough, 'and were it but to satisfie my priuate 'humor, I would proceede no further. The 'promise vnto my friends, and necessitie to 'bring also the *South* countries within com-'passe of my *patent* neere expired, as we 'haue alreadie done these *North* parts, do 'only perswade me further. And touching 'the *Ore*, I haue sent it aboord, whereof I 'would haue no speech to be made so long 'as we remaine within harbor: here being 'both *Portugals*, *Biscains*, and *Frenchmen* 'not farre off, from whom must be kept any 'bruit or muttering of such matter. When 'we are at sea proofe shal be made: if it be 'to our desire, we may returne the sooner 'hither

'hither againe.' Whose answere I iudged reasonable, and contenting me well: wherewith I will conclude this narration and description of the *Newfound land*, and proceede to the rest of our voyage, which ended tragically."

* * * *

This is the foundation and nearly the substance of all the information that has existed in this country respecting *Newfoundland*, since its discovery by *Cabot*: and it is indeed extraordinary, that the public should have more copious intelligence with regard to the manners and customs of the islands in the *Pacific Ocean*, than has been yet obtained concerning the present state of a colony, which, as a nursery for seamen, is of more importance to *Great Britain* than any of her possessions in *North America*. The author has ventured to insert the whole of *Hayes*'s Narrative, more as a curiosity than an authentic

authentic document; since it must be evident to every reader, who will be at the pains of comparing it with the account given in the following pages, that it is high time something more satisfactory, and nearer to the truth, should meet the public eye. Not that it is by any means intended to undervalue the fidelity and accuracy of *Hayes*; who, as far as his information went, certainly related what he believed to be true. It is the deficiency, rather than the fallacy, of his observations, which is most obvious on perusing his description of *Newfoundland*.

The strictures which the author has presumed to make upon the cause of failure in our illustrious circumnavigator, Captain *Cook*, during his endeavours to penetrate the *Polar seas*, were the result of long personal experience. They have been extorted by a consciousness of the importance of the

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VOYAGE,

&c. &c.

CHAP. I.

PORTSMOUTH TO ST. JOHN'S, THE CAPITAL OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Rosamond *sails from* Portsmouth—*Cove of* Cork—*Country around* Cork—*River* Lee—*Country-Seats*—*City of* Cork—Mardyke—Irish *Hospitality*—*Departure from* Cork—Spike *Island*—*Hurricane*—Ice-Berg—*Cruelty to* Hallibuts—*Cape* Race—*Overturn of an* Ice-Berg—*Spout*—*Cape* Broyle—Broyle *Bay*—*Catholic Priest*—*Drift Ice*—*Anchor at* St. John's.

It was early in the month of *February*, 1813, that His Majesty's ship, Rosamond, commanded by Captain *Donald Campbell*, lying at *Spithead*, received orders from the Admiralty to repair forthwith to the Cove of *Cork*, in order to collect the first spring convoy, bound for *Newfoundland*, *Halifax*, and the River *St. Lawrence*.

Accordingly, she left *Portsmouth*; and having sailed quickly down the *British* Channel, with a strong gale at *east*, passed between the dangerous Rocks of *Scilly* and the *Land's End* of *England*, during a very stormy night, and reached *Cork* on the evening of the sixth of *February*.

Upon our arrival at this port, we were associated in the duty of collecting the convoy, and issuing the necessary instructions, with his Majesty's ship *Crescent*, Captain *Quilliam*: and although we had soon assembled a large fleet of merchantmen, yet we were detained at this place upwards of sixty days, by the prevalence of contrary winds.

The Cove of *Cork* is undoubtedly one of the safest and finest harbours known: but it is attended with one disadvantage, which will

will ever render it an inconvenient port for the assemblage of fleets destined for the *New World*; because an *easterly* wind, which is favourable for their voyage across the *Atlantic*, renders it at the same time extremely difficult for a large convoy to beat out of the harbour. As a proof of this, it need only be mentioned, that we attempted three times to leave the place with the assistance of light *easterly* winds, and were as often compelled to relinquish the task as impracticable. The same difficulty does not retard the departure of single ships. It is well known to seamen, that, in large convoys, some few vessels will always lag in the rear, whatever exertion may be used to urge them forward: and in sailing with an *easterly* wind from the Cove of *Cork*, it is necessary to take advantage of the very first of the ebb; therefore the loiterers of the fleet will inevitably be so late on the tide, that the Commodore of

the convoy must either proceed upon his voyage without those vessels, or return again into the harbour to rejoin them.

It may perhaps be imagined, that enough has already been written respecting the second city of *Ireland*, and that any remarks respecting its present state would be entirely out of place here: yet it is impossible to avoid making a few observations upon the enchanting beauty of its surrounding scenery, the magnificent and stately mansions of the great, contrasted with the savage wildness which is so conspicuous amidst the mud-walled cabins of the peasantry; and, above all, upon the hospitality and social humour characteristic of the genuine *Irish*.

Nothing can be more varied than the state of agriculture in the space that intervenes between *Cove* and the city of CORK.

In

In one place, the country is highly cultivated; in another, deplorably neglected: and the same may be said of all the country around *Middleton*, *Cloyne*, *Ballynacurra*, *Passage*, and *Ballybricken*.

The beauty of the river between CORK and the port of *Cove* has excited the admiration of every stranger, and has been the theme of many a laboured description. Nothing in Nature can be more strikingly picturesque; consequently, no power of language can convey any adequate idea of its romantic loveliness. To be viewed in all its varied features, it should be seen from the water: both sides of the river are then visible, profusely decorated with the most superb mansions, castles, villas, cottages, shrubberies, plantations, gardens, fields, and meadows. Beyond these, on either side, rise those majestic hills, between which the *Lee* rolls its pellucid waters; and

and at the upper end of this valley, apparently seated upon the stream itself, stands the magnificent city of CORK.

From a distant view of the country-seats which are so plentifully scattered along the banks of this enchanting river, a stranger will be led to anticipate much gratification upon a nearer and more minute inspection: but as he approaches them for this purpose, the illusion is speedily dispelled. Although the grounds be laid out with as much taste and elegance as those of the same description in *England*, yet there is such a want of neatness and order in most of the gentlemen's mansions around *Cork*, that the effect of their really beautiful designs is thereby considerably diminished, and in many instances totally destroyed. Grass grown high and yellow, walks covered with dead leaves, shrubberies strewed with broken branches, and gardens overrun with weeds,

weeds, are the objects that particularly attract attention, and excite regret in viewing these otherwise princely residences.

In all general descriptions of this nature, there are, of course, many exceptions to be admitted. In no place, for example, can there be found a more exemplary display of regularity and order, than is visible in the beautiful domain of *Castle Martyr*, the magnificent residence of Lord *Shannon*.

There is nothing, perhaps, in the city of *Cork*, that will so soon be noticed by a traveller, as the irregularity of the buildings in the principal streets. A large and splendid jeweller's shop, three or four stories high, appears next door to the wretched tumble-down edifice of a soap and tallow-chandler. There are two good streets: the largest of which is broad, but

but crooked; the other is narrow, and straight. In the great market-place, or parade, there is an equestrian statue of one of our kings; but it is a very disproportionate piece of sculpture.

The number of *Protestants* and *Catholics* here may be considered as nearly equal; and there are seven places of worship set apart for the use of each respectively.

But the most noble object in the city of *Cork*, and that which most excites the admiration of a stranger, is the *Mardyke Walk*. The city itself stands upon an island, formed by two branches of the River *Lee*; and from thence a long bank, or spit of land, extends above the city; on each side of which the stream rolls its silver waters, among numberless little islands covered with the richest verdure. No place could have been better calculated for a public

public promenade than the bank in question. Nature had done much towards it; and Art has nobly completed the work. A beautiful double row of stately trees embellishes its sides, affording shade from the heat of the sun. At the town entrance, a fine pair of cast-iron gates have been erected. The other extremity is terminated by a romantic villa, belonging to a private gentleman. Entering this celebrated walk, the long vista of trees, arching over head, appears to have no end; and erroneous notions are frequently formed as to its probable length. The author walked from one extremity of it to the other, and counted *sixteen hundred paces.*

However well known the fact may be, that hospitality is a paramount virtue among the *Irish*, yet it would be unjust not to mention it in a particular manner, among the present remarks: as those only, who

who have experienced the kindness of this people, can form an adequate idea of their extraordinary munificence, liberality, and of that suavity of manners which has ever served to distinguish and characterize the sons of *Hibernia*. A mere introduction to an *Irish* gentleman is here thought equivalent to a letter of recommendation; and an acquaintance with one family is the sure prelude to a familiar intercourse with the whole neighbourhood *.

It was drawing towards the latter end of *April* before we quitted the Cove of *Cork*; when, with a fleet of fifty sail in company, we took our departure.

As

* The author has, perhaps, been urged to say more upon this subject than he would otherwise have done, owing to his gratitude for the polite and benevolent attentions he experienced, when he was almost a stranger in the country, in consequence of an accidental introduction to the Rev. *Robert Longfield*, of *Castle Mary*, near *Cloyne*, son of Colonel *Longfield*, M.P. for the City of *Cork*.

As the ship sailed out of harbour, we could not avoid noticing the formidable appearance of *Spike* Island, the citadel of *Cove*. Immense sums have been expended in endeavours to render this fortress impregnable: but we were informed, that the works had been lately discontinued, owing to a discovery that the island itself is *overlooked*; or, to speak in a military phrase, *commanded* by the heights behind it.

Our voyage across the *Atlantic* presented little worthy of observation. We arrived on the *Great Bank* of *Newfoundland* about the eighteenth of *May*; when the Commodore of the convoy made a signal for the whole fleet to pass within hail. In pursuance of this order, every vessel crowded around the *Crescent*; and at the same instant, there arose such a violent blast of wind, that we were all thrown into a state of the most imminent danger

and

and alarm: each ship dreading to be dashed against another; and, of course, all made sail to escape from the throng: but this necessary precaution proved to be the source of all the mischief that ensued; for the wind suddenly shifting, blew with terrible fury from an opposite quarter, demolishing masts, yards, and rigging. Happily for us, we had remained with every sail clewed up, since the beginning of the tempest, and by this means we escaped any material injury. Shortly afterwards, we passed one of the convoy that was lying in a dismasted state, with part of her side beaten in, and her crew was perceived to be labouring hard at the pumps.

It is remarkable that no lives were lost in our fleet upon this occasion; although many of the ships were dismasted, and others lost their sails and yards in consequence of the sudden shifting of the hurricane.

hurricane. Mention has been made of this tempest merely as a caution to other vessels which may hereafter happen to pursue the same route; since nothing can be a more common occurrence, or more dangerous, than such sudden gusts and shifts of wind upon the *Banks* of *Newfoundland*. Why they are peculiar to those immense heaps of sand, is perhaps a question not easily answered. Philosophical theories upon such abstruse subjects are often found to be both fallacious and absurd: and it is more incumbent upon a mariner to state facts, than to reason concerning matters in which he is full as likely to be *wrong* as to be *right*.

Imme-

* *Columbus*, the mighty genius who could first imagine and afterwards realize the existence of a *New World* was, notwithstanding, frequently mistaken in his notions respecting the most trivial phænomena. "The violent swell and agitation of the waters on the coast of *Trinidad* led him to conclude this to be the highest part of the terraqueous globe." *Robertson's Hist. of America, Vol. I. p.* 334. *Note* xxi.

Immediately after the hurricane had subsided, we descried the first beacon of a frozen coast, in a large mass of floating *ice*, which appeared like a vast rock of alabaster, upon our weather-beam. Few on board our ship had ever before seen an *ice-berg*: we gazed upon it; therefore, with mingled feelings of astonishment and awe. That which made it the more singular, was its perfect resemblance to the principal Pyramid of *Djïzá*, near *Caïro* in *Egypt*, as we had seen that surprising monument of antiquity represented in some old books of travels. Shortly after this, however, we began to lose the pleasure that was at first experienced in comparing these sublime works of Nature with corresponding specimens of Art; such as, *pyramids, pillars, obelisks, temples*, and *tumuli*: for the certainty of their being extremely dangerous neighbours, during dark and stormy nights, entirely destroyed the

the gratification we might otherwise have felt, in viewing them.

Upon the 19th of *May*, we tried for soundings, and found bottom with thirty-six fathoms of line. Conceiving this to be a convenient depth of water for *fishing*, we threw over hooks; and in about a quarter of an hour, every mess in the ship was well supplied with an abundance of the finest *cod-fish*. *Hallibuts*, also, of the most enormous size, were frequently drawn to the surface of the water: but it was exceedingly difficult to get them on board; as they generally succeeded, by an apparently slight exertion of their ponderous strength, in breaking away from every means that could be devised for securing them.

The fishermen of *Newfoundland* are much exasperated whenever an unfortunate *hallibut* happens to seize upon their baits: they are frequently

frequently known, in such cases, to wreak their vengeance on the poor fish, by thrusting a piece of wood through its gills, and in that condition turning it adrift upon the ocean. The efforts which are made by the tortured fish, to get its head beneath the water, afford a high source of amusement to the barbarous fishermen; who have facetiously styled this operation, the "*sprit-sail yarding of a hallibut.*"

About the 21st of *May*, we came in sight of *Cape Race*, the *south-eastern* extremity of NEWFOUNDLAND: and this first view of it led us to imagine that it would be impossible ever to approach within many leagues of our destined port. The whole line of coast, as far as the eye could reach, appeared encircled with an impenetrable zone of crystal. Indeed, this prodigious quantity of floating *ice* surrounded our convoy from the *west-south-west* to the *south-*

south-east point of the compass; thus leaving only ten points, out of the thirty-two, open for an escape. It was through this space that Commodore *Quilliam* sailed away in the *Crescent*; taking with him that part of the fleet destined for *Nova Scotia*, and leaving under our protection those vessels that were bound for *St. John's* in *Newfoundland*.

Our little *Rosamond* being thus exalted into the situation of a Commodore's ship, we put her head towards the *north-north-east*, in hopes of finding some opening through which we might be able to penetrate the formidable barrier of *ice* that opposed our passage: nor were we disappointed; for towards evening we perceived a place where the *ice* had loosened considerably, and through this channel the ships of our fleet butted their way.

In the voyages published by those who first visited this country, too little notice has been taken of the dangers attending its navigation. In their eagerness to recommend *Newfoundland* as an acquisition worthy of the *British* Empire, they have omitted, or slightly passed over, those dreadful tempests, thick fogs, rocky shores, and *icy* perils, to which a seaman is exposed upon the coasts of this island*. Later writers have run into the other extreme; and represented those dangers as more intimidating than "the most formidable rampart erected by military art, the dreadful cannonade of a besieged town, or the terrors of the most skilful and obstinate sea-fight†." It will hereafter be attempted to set

* See the Voyages of Sir *Humphrey Gilbert*, and of Captain *Whitbourne;* and the letters from the first settlers, Captains *Powell* and *Wynne*.

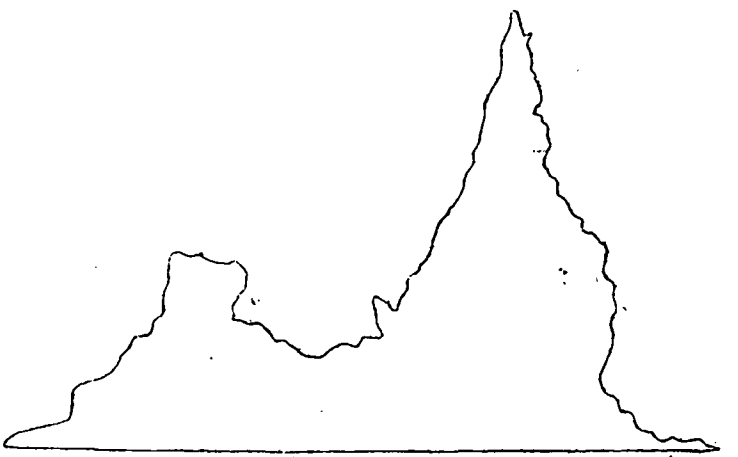
† *Raynal*'s Hist. of the *East* and *West Indies*, vol. VII. p. 204. Book XVII. *Lond.* 1783.

set these matters in a *true* point of view, by relating all occurrences simply as they presented themselves to the author, without embellishment or concealment of any kind.

On the twenty-third of *May*, a gale came on, attended by such a thick *fog*, that our fleet were entirely dispersed, and we were never afterwards able to collect them again together. The masters of those vessels were, for the most part, old traders, who were well acquainted with the coast of *Newfoundland*; and the greater part of the convoy therefore succeeded in reaching the harbour of *St. John's* before the *Rosamond*.

It was during the dreadful gale and in the thick fog above mentioned that we passed one of those lofty *ice-bergs* which are so numerous on these coasts.

It was in this shape,



and of an enormous size. The waves broke their fury upon its sides, causing it to roll to and fro, with a noise that it would baffle any person to describe. Our horror and astonishment may be conceived, when, on a tremendous heave of the sea, it rolled completely over, with a crash that might have been heard at an immense distance. We trembled at the sight; for the *Rosamond* was not above four cables' length distant

distant at the moment; and it was a mass of *ice* that would, by its contact, have crushed a first-rate ship of war, as easily as the foot of *Goliath* would have demolished a spider.

The aspect of this *ice-berg* had now entirely changed; and in its inverted state, it presented the following outline:

The surface of the *ice* exhibited a most beautiful shining green hue, occasioned either by its long continuance beneath the sea, or to that effect of contrast which is known to have such remarkable properties in the modification of colours.

The gale having at length subsided, and some

some days elapsed since we lost sight of the land, we again attempted to reach the coast: but here another thick fog threw us into a state of the greatest perplexity and uneasiness; as we had reason to suppose, from our reckoning, that the shore could not be far distant. However, the wind being light, and the sea smooth, we ventured to continue our *westerly* course; until, upon listening attentively, Captain *Campbell* imagined that he could distinguish a low murmuring, like the sound produced by surge, when dashing against a distant reef of rocks. We thereupon immediately let fall the anchor: and this proved to have been a very wise precaution. The fog dispersing, we found ourselves near a dangerous part of the coast, called *Shoal-bay*, situate a few miles to the *southward* of *St. John's*.

We had not before obtained so near a view

view of *Newfoundland;* therefore the whole crew were extremely earnest in their contemplation of its naked rocks and frowning forests; and as the mist slowly cleared away, every point of land became the subject of their scrutiny. Immediately opposite to the ship, appeared a remarkable natural curiosity, called the *Spout,* which is visible at a great distance from the shore. We had no opportunity of examining this phænomenon minutely; but could easily perceive that the *spout* in question was occasioned by a column of water forcing itself through a fissure in the rock; and being impelled to an amazing height, it assumed the appearance of volcanic smoke. In this state it admirably answers the purpose of a landmark, for those who are otherwise unacquainted with the coast.

When the fog was entirely dispersed, we discovered His Majesty's ships, *Dryad* and

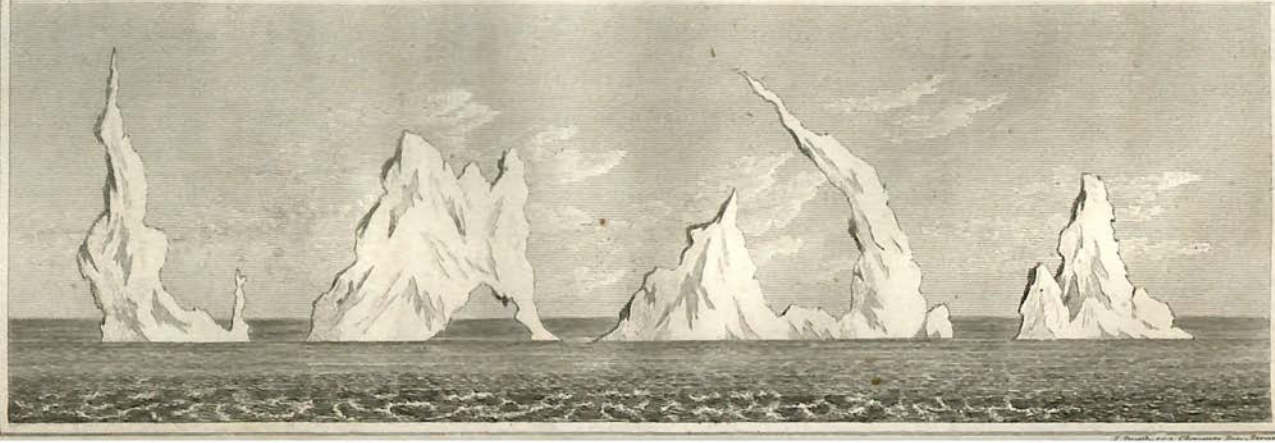
and *Comus**, at anchor near the *Rosamond*. These ships had left *Broyle Bay* in the morning, with an intention of getting into *St. John's*: but the quantity of floating *ice* rendering that port quite inaccessible, it was proposed to return again to *Broyle Bay*. Accordingly, we joined their company; and towards evening the three ships came to anchor in that place.

Cape Broyle, standing at the entrance of

* This ship was afterwards destined to meet her fate upon the coast of *Newfoundland*. The following intelligence of her wreck appeared in the Papers of *December* 14th, 1816. "*Torbay*.—Arrived the schooner *Plymouth*, Captain *Davis*, of this port. By this vessel we learn the particulars of the loss of His Majesty's ship, *Comus*, in the Bay of *St. Mary's*, at midnight, on the 24th of *October*; and the wonderful escape of the officers and men, in four small boats, *after rowing from four in the morning till six in the evening, in search of a spot to land*; then obliged to march back eighteen miles, to the wreck, in search of provisions, where they remained several hours before they could procure any: nor had they a change of clothes, or a bed to lie upon, before they reached *Renews*, eleven days after the accident."

Appearance of the entrance to St. Johns – Cape Spear bearing W.b.S. distant 8 miles

Appearance of Cape Broyle bearing N.W. distant 12 or 13 miles



of the bay bearing the same name, is, perhaps, the most remarkable promontory on the whole *eastern* coast of *Newfoundland.* In appearance, it resembles an enormous *saddle*†; and as it stands about thirty miles to the *southward* of the Capital, it is extremely useful, to determine the position of any vessel, upon her first obtaining sight of the island. The knowledge of proper land-marks is of the utmost importance to mariners navigating the coast of *Newfoundland.* The dense fogs that continually hover around the shores frequently render it impossible to obtain a sight of the sun for many days: so that the difficulty of ascertaining the exact latitude and position of a ship is here productive of much inconvenience and mischief.

Broyle Bay is a deep inlet: its entrance lies

† See the annexed Sketch of *Cape Broyle,* taken by the author, from the deck of the *Rosamond.*

lies at the foot of the Cape before mentioned. The depth of water is sufficient for vessels of almost any size, and the harbour is sheltered from all winds. On steering into this place, great care ought to be taken, to keep close in with the *southern* shore of the channel; as there is a dangerous sunken rock lying upon the *north* side of it, near *Cape Brigus.*

There are not more than five or six families settled within this bay; who, of course, obtain their livelihood by the curing of *cod:* and they afterwards carry the product of their labour to *St. John's,* where they dispose of it to the merchants, in exchange for provisions and necessaries; but they very seldom receive specie in return for their *fish.* From this it will appear evident, that those merchants, who reside constantly at *St. John's,* receive a double profit: the first arising from their foreign exports

exports of salted *cod*; and the second, from the articles which they supply to the *out-harbour** settlers, in return for this commodity. It follows, therefore, as a natural consequence, that the principal mercantile men of this country, by monopolizing almost the whole of the external and internal trade, are thereby enabled to amass the most splendid fortunes with an inconceivable rapidity; whilst the middling and lower classes of fishermen may toil from year to year, with patient and unremitted industry, and yet find themselves, in their old age, many degrees worse off than when first they crossed the *Atlantic*, as wretched emigrants from their native country†.

The

* All the ports of *Newfoundland*, except that of the Capital, *St. John's*, are called *Out-harbours*.

† The author is aware that he shall have occasion to resume this subject in a subsequent part of his Work: but he trusts that the Reader will make an allowance for any *seeming* repetition, which it is almost impossible to avoid, in the description of a people who depend entirely upon the *fisheries* for the means of their existence.

The lower order of fishermen in *Newfoundland,* being principally *Roman-Catholics* from *Ireland,* maintain a little jolly priest of that persuasion; who gains a precarious livelihood, by trudging on foot along the coast from one harbour to another,

"To shrive the dying, bless the dead."

We saw this personage, during our stay at *Broyle:* he was a short rotund man, who certainly did not exhibit, in his own person, any outward appearance of having suffered either from severe penance or bodily mortification.

In addition to the recommendation of its being a very secure anchorage, the shores of *Broyle Bay* are covered with wood; and a cataract of the clearest fresh water falls into the sea, from a precipice near the huts of the settlers. There is a small patch of cultivated land at the head of the bay.

The

The sudden changing of the drift or low *ice*, upon the coasts of *Newfoundland* and *Labrador*, is very remarkable. We had entered *Broyle Bay* in the evening, through an open sea, entirely clear of obstruction as far as the eye could extend: but on the morning of the next day, the harbour was completely choked with *ice*, so as almost to render it possible to walk from the ship to the shore: and upon ascending the mast, we could perceive that the wide ocean itself was also one vast plain of broken fragments. To account for this singular phænomenon, it ought to be observed, that there is a strong *southerly* current continually setting along the whole of the shores extending from *Davis' Straits* to *Nova Scotia*: therefore, upon the breaking up of the great *Northern* bays in the spring of the year, the low drift *ice* is carried towards the *south* with great velocity, where it eventually disappears, in consequence

consequence of being exposed to the heat of the sun.

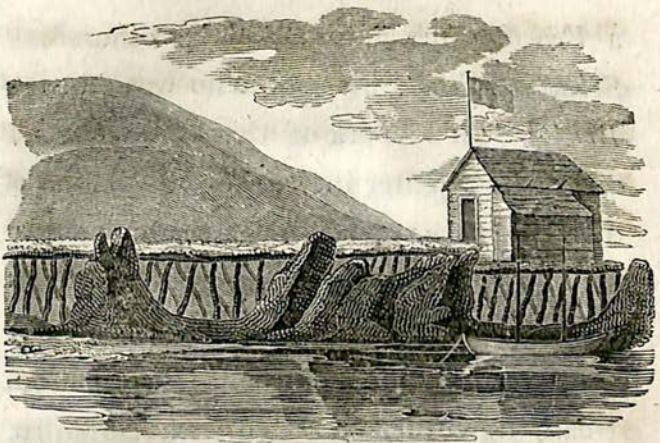
It is thus, in its progress from *north* to *south*, that the *ice* occasionally enters and blocks up the different bays and harbours along the coasts of *Labrador* and *Newfoundland:* but the inconvenience thereby caused to mariners is of a temporary nature; as the floating mass, being easily affected by the slightest change of wind, frequently disappears in the course of a few hours, leaving the sea open and navigable as before.

We were rather surprised to find that the fishermen at *Broyle Bay* demand almost as high a price for their salted *cod* as the same commodity generally obtains in *England.* This was quite a disappointment to us, who had imagined that *fish* in *Newfoundland* must be, comparatively, as cheap

cheap as coals at *Newcastle:* but we afterwards learned that the merchants of *St. John's* would gladly purchase salted *cod* at thirty-two shillings *per quintal* from the *out-harbour* fishermen, for which they could obtain forty or forty-six shillings, either in *Spain* or *Portugal.* But it must not be understood, from this, that the thirty-two shillings *per quintal* is *actually paid* by the merchants of *St. John's* to the *out-harbour* settlers: the *fish* is merely valued at that price, and provisions to the amount are given in exchange.

Having completed our stock of water and fuel, we sailed from *Broyle Bay;* in order, if possible, to get into *St. John's* harbour. We made two or three ineffectual attempts, and experienced much thumping among the drift *ice*; but at length succeeded, about the 10th of *June,* in entering the narrow mouth of this capacious port. With some

some labour and difficulty, our ship was warped up into a proper situation, nearly opposite to the town; where we moored her in safety.



Fish Flake, and *Salting House*; as they are seen in all the Ports of *Newfoundland*.

CHAP. II.

ST. JOHN'S, CAPITAL OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Discovery of Newfoundland — *Taken possession of by the* English—*Province of* Avalon *settled—Entirely ceded to* Great Britain—*Entrance to* St. John's *Harbour—Fortifications—Naval Arsenal—Fish Stages—Town of* St. John's—*Government—Sir* Richard Keats—*Judicature—Population—State of Society—Climate.*

THE discovery of *Newfoundland* has, by some authors *, been ascribed to *John Cabot*, a *Vene-*

* *Campbell's* "Naval History of *Great Britain*," vol. I. p. 244. *Raynal's* "History of the *East* and *West Indies*," vol. VII. p. 191. *Lond.* 1788.

a *Venetian* navigator; and by others*, to *Sebastian Cabot,* his son, who was born at *Bristol.* In a Work of this kind, it is not necessary to enter into a long discussion of their separate pretensions, particularly as the matter has already been handled by able writers†, to whom the curious Reader may be referred for more particular information. It can, however, be stated with certainty, that this island was first seen in the year 1497, or 1498, by an *English* squadron, fitted out by *Henry* the *Seventh.* In the reign of his successor, *Henry* the *Eighth,* the *cod-fish* first became an article of commerce; and some small vessels sent from *England,* returned with a cargo of salt and dried *cod*‡. From this time forward, the Banks

* *Hume*'s "History of *England,*" vol. III. Chap. XXVI. p. 406.

† *Ellis*'s "Voyage to *Hudson's Bay,*" pp. 4—6. *Campbell*'s "Naval History of *Great Britain,*" vol. I. pp. 287—289.

‡ *Raynal*'s "History of the *East* and *West Indies,* vol. VII. p. 192. Book XVII. *Lond.* 1783.

Banks of *Newfoundland* were annually visited by numbers of ships, from *Spain, France, Italy, Portugal,* and *England.* The fine harbours along the coast became the property of those who first entered them in the spring of the year, which was the cause of much mischief and confusion. The emulation and rivalship of the original fishermen were so great, that they contrived every possible means to retard and to injure their competitors, by breaking down the stages, and scattering the materials of them upon the waves §. To replace the damage sustained upon these occasions, the waste of young trees, and the number destroyed by stripping off the rind, was almost incredible; and it was thought necessary to put a stop to such ravages in future. Accordingly, in the year 1583, Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* sailed from

§ Captain *Whitbourne*'s "Discourse and Discovery of *Newfoundland*." p. 23.

from *Plymouth* with a small squadron, and, after a tedious voyage, arrived at *St. John's* in *Newfoundland.* There, in the presence of all his captains and officers, and in the name of *Elizabeth,* Queen of *Great Britain,* he took possession of two hundred leagues of territory, extending in every direction from *St. John's.* A *turf* and a *rod* were presented to him, in token of his right, as the Governor appointed by her Majesty's patent*, to rule over the newly-acquired country. Immediately after this event, Sir *Humphrey* framed three laws for the observance of the fishermen. By the *first,* the form of religion was established according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England: Secondly,* it was made high-treason to plot against her Majesty's Govern-

* The form of the *Patent* granted by Queen *Elizabeth* to Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* may be seen in *Harris's* "Collection of Voyages and Travels," vol. I.—from whence, also, most of the observations respecting the Expedition of Sir *Humphrey* have been selected by the author.

Government: and, *Thirdly*, it was ordained, that if any person should utter words of dishonour against her Majesty, he should suffer the loss of his ears; or if the offender were a master of any vessel, his goods should become confiscate to the Crown. A pillar of wood was erected upon the shore, with the arms of *England* engraved thereon; and the land by the sea-side was parcelled out into separate lots by Sir *Humphrey*†, the proprietors gladly consenting to pay an annual tribute to the Governor for the same; by which means they hoped to secure their stages and fish-flakes against the periodical ravages of their countrymen.

This

† In the *French* edition of *Raynal*'s "*Histoire Philosophique*," this celebrated Navigator is styled the *Chevalier Humshréé:* and *Justamond*, in his translation of that Work, has rendered this word *Humshréé*, by *Hampshire*. Thus, the glory of having first secured the sovereignty of *Newfoundland* to the *British* nation is likely to be taken from a patriotic knight who expended his whole fortune in the undertaking; and given to a personage whose name is unknown in the annals of *England*.

This new regulation had a very beneficial effect on the *Newfoundland* trade: for we find in *Whitbourne*'s account*, that in the year 1615 there were 250 *English* vessels employed upon the coasts of that island; and that, according to the usual manner of manning ships in those days, not less than 5000 seamen were engaged therein. Still, the *English* fisheries were eclipsed by those of foreign nations, who annually sent 400 sail thither, to obtain *cod-fish* and *oil*†; and this induced many people in *England* to undertake the colonization of the country. Sir *George Calvert*, Secretary to King *James* the *First*, settled the province of *Avalon*‡, which was the name given to a sort of peninsula in *Newfoundland* formed by the deep bays of *Trinity* and *Trepassy*; and, from thence-forward,

* *Whitbourne*'s "Discourse and Discovery of *Newfoundland*," p. 12.

† Ibid. p. 11.

‡ Ibid. pp. 78, 79.

forward, the whole *eastern* coast of the island became gradually occupied by the *English* fishermen. "Those," says *Raynal*§, "who were concerned in the fishery, "being forced, both from the nature of "their employment and that of the soil, "to live at a distance from each other, "opened paths of communication through "the woods. Their general rendezvous "was at *St. John's*, where, in an excellent "harbour, formed between two mountains "at a very small distance from each other, "they met with privateers from the mother-"country, who supplied them with every "necessary article, in exchange for the "produce of their fishery."

Other nations were not insensible of the benefits which the *English* derived from their permanent settlements in *Newfoundland*.

§ *Raynal's* "History of the *East* and *West Indies*," vol. VII. pp. 192, 193. Book XVII. *Lond.* 1783.

land. The *French* planted colonies on the *north* and *south* sides of the island, and built the town of *Placentia.* The share possessed by this people in the *fisheries* was a natural source of uneasiness to a nation that has always been extremely jealous of any encroachments on her maritime power or commerce. Accordingly, in the Treaty of *Utrecht,* the entire possession of *Newfoundland* was demanded by *Great Britain:* and *France* being glad to procure a peace upon almost any terms, consented to this sacrifice, and merely reserved to her subjects the privilege of drying their *fish* upon the shores of that island*.

By subsequent treaties, the *French* have been restricted to the small islands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon:* and as they are not suffered to erect any fortifications on them, their *fishery* is immediately stopped, whenever

* *Smollett's* "Complete Hist. of *England,*" vol. X. p. 121.

whenever a war is declared between the two nations. The *English, French,* and *Americans* are the only people who have at present the right of *fishing* on the *Banks* of *Newfoundland.*

Having thus given a concise sketch of the history of this country, we will now return to a description of its Capital.

The entrance to *St. John's* Harbour forms a long and extremely narrow strait, but not very difficult of access. There are about twelve fathoms' water in the middle of the channel, with tolerable good anchorage ground. The most lofty perpendicular precipices rise, to an amazing height, upon the *north side;* and the *southern* shore only appears less striking in its attitude, from a comparison with the opposite rocks. There is a light shewn every night on the left side of the entrance; where there are also

also a small battery and a signal-post. Other batteries of greater strength appear towering above the rocky eminences towards the *north*. At about two-thirds of the distance between the entrance, and what may properly be termed the harbour itself, there lies a dangerous shelf, called the *Chain Rock*; so named from a chain which extends across the strait at that place, to prevent the admission of any hostile fleet. Mariners, on entering this place, ought to beware of approaching too near the rocks beneath the light-house point. At the time we sailed by them, the masts of a large ship were still visible above the water, that had a short time before been forced by the swell upon those rocks, where she immediately foundered. We were afterwards concerned to hear, that the unfortunate vessel in question was one of the ships that had sailed from *Cork* in our convoy, about six weeks before.

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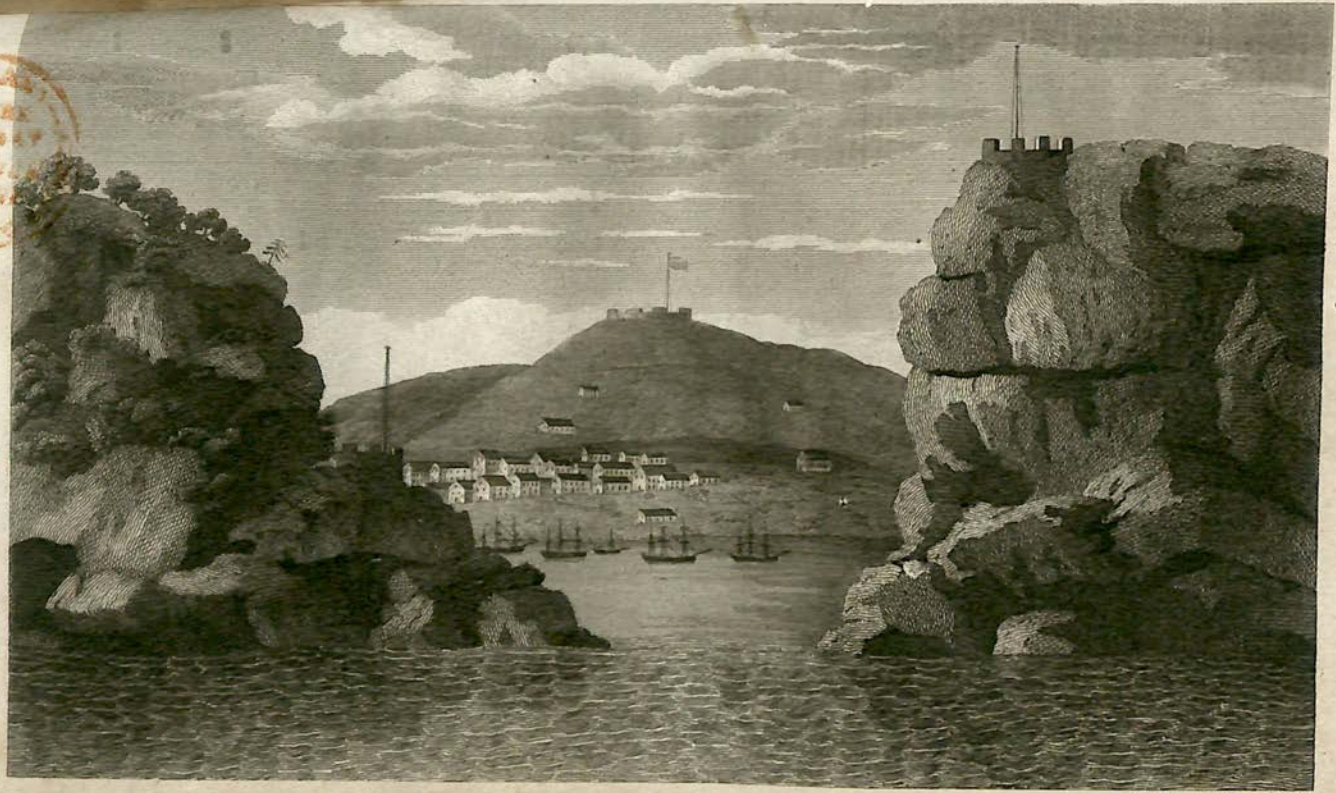


J. Smith sculp. 4. Clements Inn Strand

ENTRANCE TO ST JOHN'S HARBOUR, NEWFOUNDLAND.

In addition to the fortifications already noticed, there are several other strong fortresses upon the heights around the town, so as to render this place perfectly secure against any sudden attack. *Fort Townshend* is situate immediately over the town, and is the usual residence of the Governor. Forts *Amherst* and *William* are more towards the *north*; and there is also a small battery perched on the top of a single pyramidal mount, which is called the *Crow's Nest*.

At the upper part of the harbour, and upon the *eastern* side of it, there is a small place styled the *King's Dock-yard*, although it can scarcely be said to deserve this title. At the time we were there, the Admiral was very intent upon enlarging and improving its condition. It may not be amiss to add one reflection on the obvious policy of rendering *St. John's* a considerable naval depôt; for notwithstanding that we possess

so fine an arsenal as *Halifax* upon the coast of *America*, yet *Newfoundland*, as an island, is not so open to the attacks of an enemy; and it would be an excellent resort for our cruizers during the summer months, should we, by any mischance, be deprived of the former valuable acquisition. In considering this point, *Bermuda* has not been forgotten; but the dangers manifest in the approach to that island will ever render its utility, as a naval depôt, of precarious advantage to our fleets.

The harbour of *St. John's* is most exposed to heavy gales from the *north-west;* as the wind from that point rushes with extreme violence through a valley to the left of the town.

On first entering the bays and ports of *Newfoundland*, the attention of a stranger is mostly attracted by the remarkable appearance

appearance exhibited by the innumerable *stages* erected along the sea-side for the salting and drying of *cod.* The shores around the harbour of *St. John's* are entirely covered with them, and their construction is particularly simple. Numerous supporters, exactly resembling *Kentish* hop-poles, are first fixed in the ground: over these is placed a horizontal platform of similar poles; and the whole is finally overspread with a covering of dry fern. This sort of structure is called, by the fishermen, a *Fish Flake:* but there are other stages, erected in a similar manner, although standing partly in the water, with a hut at their extremity, for the reception and salting of the *cod,* previous to its final removal to the *Flakes,* for the purpose of being dried in the sun.

The Capital of *Newfoundland* consists of one very narrow street, extending entirely

entirely along one side of the port. The houses are principally built of wood; and there are very few handsome or even good-looking edifices in the place. This street stands upon very irregular ground, and is not paved; therefore, in wet weather, it is rendered almost impassable, by mud and filth. There are a great number of small public-houses, but scarcely one tolerable inn: the *London Tavern*, however, has a good billiard-room attached to it. Shops of all descriptions are very numerous; but most commodities are extravagantly dear, particularly meat, poultry, and vegetables, as the town receives all its supplies of those articles from *Nova Scotia*. The number of wharfs for lading ships is remarkable: almost every petty merchant, indeed, possesses one of his own: and there is, besides these, a fine broad quay, called the Government Wharf, which is open for the accommodation of the public.

The

The Island of *Newfoundland* is governed by a Vice-admiral of the *British* Navy, whose jurisdiction extends also over the coast of *Labrador*, from Cape *Charles* to *Mount Joli*, together with the small islands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon* on the *south*, and *Anticosti* in the mouth of the River *St. Lawrence*. The Governor holds his situation for three years; and he is, during this time, Commander-in-chief of the naval force employed within the limits of his government. He usually resides in a fortress above the town of *St. John's*, and returns to *England* for the winter months. During his absence, the chief power of the island is vested in the hands of the Military Commandant, who is styled the *Lieutenant-Governor* of *Newfoundland*. In the event of the decease of this last personage, the government devolves on the *Chief Justice* of *St. John's*.

We were witnesses of the ceremony of installing and swearing in Vice-Admiral Sir *Richard Goodwin Keats*, G.C.B. as Governor: and never was the protection of this valuable colony confided, during a critical period, to more indefatigable or able hands. The bravery, abilities, and brilliant achievements of Sir *Richard Keats* are known throughout *Europe*; but his patient assiduity, excellent precautions, and unremitting vigilance, can only be manifest to those who were witnesses of the able disposition of his naval force, whereby the shores of *Newfoundland* might be navigated in security during the most violent period of the late contest with *America**.

The

* When Captain of the *Superb*, 74, under the command of Admiral Sir *James Saumarez*, in the Straits of *Gibraltar*, Sir *Richard Keats* ran his ship alongside two *Spanish* three-deckers, and engaged them both at the same time: then making sail, he passed out from between them, unnoticed; and, overtaking another of their fleet, whose force was more proportionate to that of the *Superb*, he soon compelled her to a sur-

The judicature of this island is confided to a *Chief Justice*, residing in *St. John's*: and there are also Magistrates in the principal places on the coast of *Newfoundland* and *Labrador*, who are empowered to take cognizance of *murder*, *robberies*, and *frauds*; but it has been judiciously ordained, that they should not interfere in any disputes relative to the *fisheries*. For the adjustment of the latter cases, an officer of the Navy is annually appointed to hold a Surrogate Court in the out-harbours.

It would be very difficult to form the least calculation respecting the population of *St. John's;* as no computation, however accurate,

a surrender. The two three-deckers, not perceiving his escape, continued, in the darkness of the night, to engage each other; until they both caught fire, and were consumed together: thus giving to Captain *Keats* the honour of having, by a masterly manœuvre, occasioned the destruction of two first-rate line-of-battle ships belonging to the enemy; and capturing another of equal force, with a comparatively trifling loss on his own part.

accurate, can be considered as correct beyond the instant of time in which it is made. During the height of the fishery, it appears to be overflowing with inhabitants; but most of the people employed therein return to *Europe* in the autumn. There is not a work of any kind that we can refer to respecting *Newfoundland*, if we except those imperfect sketches given of it in the various publications called *Gazetteers*. Upon such works there can be little dependence placed, particularly when they profess to describe countries not generally known. Of this fact, we have an instance before us; when, in speaking of *Newfoundland*, we find it stated*, "that there are about 500 *English* families, "who continue there all the year, besides "the garrisons of *St. John's*, *Placentia*, and "other forts. In the *fishing* season, it is "resorted

* The "*General Gazetteer*," by *R. Brookes*, M.D. *London*, 1815.

" resorted to by at least 10,000 people, on " account of the *fishing* banks." We may judge of the degree of accuracy with which this calculation was made, by reference to another passage in the same description: " It seems to have no inhabi- " tants of its own; *but in the summer-time* " *is visited by the Esquimaux Indians.*" It may appear strange, that such lamentable ignorance should exist respecting one of our most valuable possessions in *North America:* it will appear hereafter, that *Newfoundland* has always been inhabited by a nation peculiar to itself; and that the *Esquimaux* are not less strangers upon the coasts than the *Chickasaws* or *Catabees* in the streets of *London!*

The state of society in *St. John's* is such as might be expected, in a place where the majority of the principal inhabitants have risen from the lowest fishermen. The

vulgar arrogance of these upstarts is sometimes both ludicrous and offensive. Literature and polished manners are here unknown; and a stranger must not be surprised to observe a constant violation of the most ordinary rules of speech..

The lower classes are generally composed of turbulent *Irishmen,* whose unwearied industry during the *fishing* season in summer is forcibly contrasted with their unbounded licentiousness in winter. Indeed, all ranks of society appear to consider debauchery as the only antidote to the *tædium vitæ* which prevails between the month of *December* and the recommencement of the *fishery* in the *May* following.

Having spoken of the industry and licentiousness of the *Irish* fishermen, it will be no more than justice to mention an instance of honesty in one of their class.

The

The author had been making a purchase of some trifling article, upon one of the quays in *St. John's;* when, in consequence of being much hurried, he was so negligent as to leave his purse and gloves upon a log of timber near the place. The town-crier was authorized to offer an adequate reward for the recovery of the property; and in less than half an hour afterwards, the purse and gloves were restored to the owner, by a tattered wretch, as destitute in his appearance as the meanest pauper. The purse contained about ten pounds *sterling*, in the current notes of the island.

The trading commodities of *Newfoundland* are so well known, that it will only be requisite to say, the *exports* consist of *fish, oil,* and a very few *furs:* the *imports* are, *provisions, clothing, salt, fishing-gear,* and some *India* goods.

The scenery around the Capital, like all the other parts of the island, is wild and desolate: but in many places, the mountains, lakes, woods, and plains, present rather a pleasing landscape. The inhabitants of *St. John's* have extended their country-houses only a few miles into the interior.

The rigour of the winters in *Newfoundland*, and indeed throughout the whole continent of *North America*, has excited the curiosity and inquiries of many philosophical writers. Although lying on the same parallel of latitude with the most fertile parts of *France*, yet such is the severity of the climate, that it is not an unusual circumstance, in *St. John's*, to find, at the breakfast-table, the tea-cup frozen to the saucer, although filled with boiling water at the moment!* *Robertson* says, that "almost

* To shew how little dependence can be placed upon the descriptions given of *Newfoundland* by those who first visited the

" almost all the birds fly, during that sea-
" son, from a climate where they could not
" live:" but, in this point at least, he is mis-taken; because most of the *northern* parts of *North America* abound with feathered tribes much more during the winter than in the summer, particularly with *partridges, wild ducks, geese, plovers,* and *moor-fowl*†.

In

the country, it will only be necessary to mention, that, in their eagerness to recommend the *colonization* of the island, they have actually represented the climate as being equally mild and temperate with that of *Great Britain.*—See *Whitbourne's* Discourse and Discovery of *Newfoundland,* p. 1.

† As a proof of this, it is only necessary to quote the following passages, from the account of countries situate *eight degrees farther to the North* than *Newfoundland.* " They use, " at the Factories, no other method of killing the *partridges,* " than shooting them: and in this they are very successful, for " they are there in very great plenty; insomuch, that some " men may be able to shoot sixty or eighty in a day's time, " *which makes a good article in the magazine-list of winter* " *provision.*"—*Ellis's* Voyage to *Hudson's Bay,* p. 160.

" There are great plenty of *partridges* in the winter time." *Letters from a Gentleman on board His Majesty's Ship Furnace, in Churchill River, North America.*

In attempting to account for the rigour so remarkably characteristic of the climate of *North America*, philosophers, in their inquiry, have evidently fallen short of the original cause. They all concur in the fact, that the extreme severity of winter is occasioned by the prevalence of the *north-west* wind during that season of the year: but to explain the true source of such an extraordinary diminution of temperature, it is incumbent upon them to point out the causes of this prevailing wind.

Although the climate of *North America* be undoubtedly rigorous, yet it is not either unhealthy or unpleasant. The *European* settlers in *Hudson's Bay* and in *Newfoundland* prefer the serene intense cold of their dry winters, to the damp and foggy atmosphere of *Great Britain;* and maintain, that, with the thermometer of *Fahrenheit* at sixty degrees below the freezing point,

point*, they have invariably experienced an exhilarating and joyous sensation, unknown in other parts of the globe. Captain *Whitbourne*, speaking of *Newfoundland*, says †, that "in the year 1615, of the many thousands of *English*, *French*, *Portugals*, and "others, that were then upon that coast "(amongst whom I sailed to and fro more "than 150 leagues), I neither saw nor "heard, in all that trauell, of any man or boy, "of either of these nations, that died there "during the whole voyage; neither was "there so much as any one of them sicke." If any part of *Whitbourne*'s account be entitled to implicit credit, perhaps we might bestow it upon the foregoing statement; as no fact is more certain than that of the healthiness of a *North-American* climate.

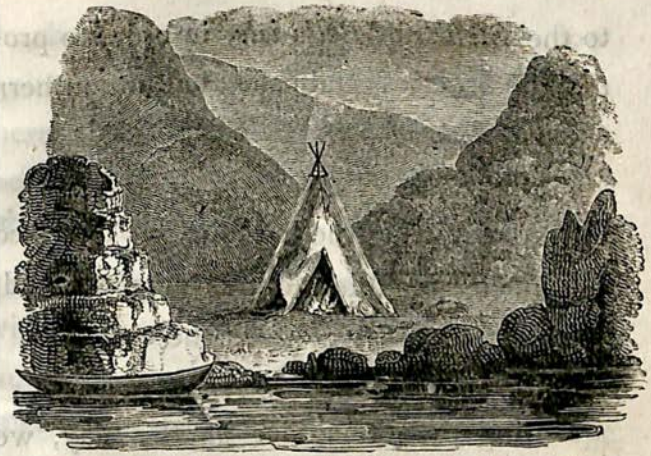
Having

* See the abstract of a Meteorological Journal published in the Author's "*Narrative of an Expedition to Hudson's Bay.*" Appendix.

† *Whitbourne's Discourse and Discovery of Newfoundland*, p. 2.

Having discussed a few subjects worthy of observation respecting the Capital* of *Newfoundland*, we may now proceed with the narrative of the voyage.

* Since the *Rosamond* was in *Newfoundland*, the town of *St. John's* has been *three* times nearly destroyed by fire! In the first instance, a hundred dwelling-houses were consumed; but the damage was speedily repaired, and the sufferers relieved by the assistance of a munificent donation from His Royal Highness the *Prince Regent*. A suspicion having been excited that the *two* subsequent conflagrations were not the effect of *accident*, the Grand Jury minutely inquired into the causes of those dreadful events; but were unanimously of opinion, that there was no foundation for such a supposition. At all events, although these successive fires may occasion much loss to individuals, yet, if there be the least taste displayed in rebuilding, the Capital of *Newfoundland* cannot fail to be greatly improved by the catastrophe.



Wigwam of the *Micmac Indians*, in *St. George's Bay, Newfoundland.*

CHAP. III.

FROM ST. JOHN'S, TO ST. GEORGE'S BAY.

Departure from St. John's—*Cape* Pine—Placentia—St. Pierre *and* Miquelon—*Fogs*—*Cape* Breton—*Cape* Ray—Irish *Fisherman*—*Anchor at* St. George's Bay—*Trout*—*Dialogue with an* Indian—Main *River*—Indian *Village*—Micmacs—Europeans—*Entire Population of* St. George's Bay—*Boat-tax*—*Sail from* St. George's Bay.

IT was about the 14th of *June* that we at length sailed from *St. John's*. Our Captain had received directions to proceed

to

to the *Straits of Belle-isle*, in order to protect the fisheries established on the southern *Coast of Labrador*.

When quitting the harbour, we observed an immense mountain of *ice*, lying aground, in forty fathoms' water, off the entrance.

During the remainder of this day, we ran towards the *south*, with a gentle breeze from the *north-west*: and having passed *Petty* Harbour, Bay of *Bulls*, *Witless* and *Momables* Bays, we reached Cape *Broyle* at sun-set. The summit of this majestic headland was now covered with snow, and many small vessels were busily employed fishing along its base.

At daylight, on *June* the 15th, we doubled the promontory of Cape *Race*; but as the wind blew in very light airs from the *north-west*, we had not, at night-fall, reached

reached farther than Cape *Pine*, a low point of land covered with trees*. It was here that the *American* privateers were accustomed to lie in wait, to intercept the *English* merchant ships bound for different ports in the River *St. Lawrence*; until the vigilance of Admiral Sir *Richard Keats* succeeded in clearing the coast of them. The inlet between Cape *Race* and Cape *Pine* is called *Trepassy* Bay, and there is a small fishing town situate near its head.

June the 16th.—In the forenoon, we crossed the mouth of a deep gulf, called *Placentia* Bay. When the *French* had possession of the *southern* parts of *Newfoundland*, they built a town upon the shores of this bay, and made *Placentia* the Capital

* While the author was correcting these pages for the press, an account appeared, in most of the Daily Papers, of a very melancholy shipwreck upon Cape *Pine*: and, as it may tend to shew the horrors ever attendant on a *Newfoundland* shipwreck, it has been inserted in the *Appendix* to this volume.

Capital of their territory. It is still a considerable place, and ranks next to *St. John's* in extent and population.

Towards night-fall, we were off Cape *Chapeau-Rouge*, the *western* extremity of *Placentia* Bay; and we could perceive the islands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon*, at a short distance towards the *west*.

June the 17th.—We were becalmed the whole day off the islands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon;* concerning which so much has been said, in the different Treaties between *Great Britain* and *France*. These islands are small and barren; and are divided by a strait, that is navigable only for small vessels.

There is one peculiarity attending the *fogs* of *Newfoundland*, unnoticed in any account of the country: although it be very

very important that mariners navigating this coast should be apprised of the circumstance. It often occurs, that the whole of the ocean around *Newfoundland* is enveloped in so dense a fog, that it is apparently impossible for a ship to proceed on her course, without incurring the most imminent danger of shipwreck: but, at the same time, there is generally a small space, within a mile or two of the shore itself, entirely clear of the vapour, and, as it were, forming a zone of light around the coast: so that a person acquainted with this singular phænomenon, will, in some cases, be enabled to attain his port; while a stranger, on the other hand, is afraid to approach the island.

June the 19th.—In the forenoon, we saw the high-land of Cape *Breton;* and towards evening, we doubled Cape *Ray*, the *south-west* extremity of *Newfoundland;* a lofty

a lofty promontory, entirely destitute of vegetation.

June the 22d.—We were off the mouth of a deep gulf, called *St. George's* Bay, situate upon the *western* coast of *Newfoundland,* in nearly the same parallel of latitude as *St. John's,* the Capital of the island. There being but little wind, we sent a boat in shore, to obtain a few fish. In about an hour, the boat returned, completely laden with the finest *cod.* The people, who were sent on this service, reported, that at the first, having gone too near the shore, they found the bottom covered with weeds, and could not succeed in catching a single fish; but rowing a little farther out, into ten fathoms' water, they found *rocky ground;* and here the *cod* were so plentiful, and voracious, that in twenty minutes they obtained a sufficient quantity to supply the whole of our ship's company.

In

June the 23d.—In the morning, we again stood into the Bay of *St. George;* but had scarcely entered the gulf, when we perceived some one in a small canoe paddling towards us. For some time, we were eagerly endeavouring, by the assistance of our telescopes, to ascertain what sort of stranger the canoe contained. The Reader may then conceive our surprise, when, upon coming alongside, he inquired if we *plaised* to buy any salmon. His country could no longer be a secret to us; and presently the genuine *Paddy* stood confessed, although disguised by an olive complexion, a dark red beard and red mustachios, deer-skin jacket and breeches, red cloth greaves on his legs, embroidered red sandals, and a head covered with such a profusion of hair that it resembled the fur cap of a *Russian.* Entering into conversation with him, we understood that he had been for many years an inhabitant of *St. George's*

Bay, and that he procured a livelihood by catching and curing salmon.

Towards evening, we anchored off a small village, called *Sandy Point,* at the bottom of *St. George's* Bay. On every side appeared the most lofty mountains, covered with dark forests of the *spruce, pine,* and *larch* trees. Immediately opposite to the village of *Sandy Point,* stood a village of about twenty *Indian wigwams.*

Mr. *Massery,* the constable and chief man of this place, came on board, with information, that the whole of the settlers in *St. George's* Bay had for two days been kept in a state of the greatest alarm, in consequence of their having mistaken our ship for an *American* cruizer. Precautions had been taken against a surprise; and the whole of the *Indians* on the opposite side

side of the bay were actually under arms, to oppose our landing. However, we soon succeeded in quieting their fears: and upon hoisting our *Union-Jack* at the main-top-gallant-mast head, we received a visit from the *Chief of the Micmac Indians,* of whom it will be necessary to speak more fully hereafter.*

St. George's Harbour lies at the upper part of the bay which bears the same name: it is a very safe and commodious anchorage; but is rather exposed to the violence of the *south-west* winds, occasioned by the lofty mountains in that direction.

In

* On our arrival in *St. George's* Bay, we received intelligence that the CHESAPEAKE, *American* frigate, had been captured, in the most gallant manner, and *in the short space of eleven minutes,* by the SHANNON, *British* frigate, commanded by Captain (now Sir *Philip*) *Broke.* Such an event, if proof were wanted, must have manifested, to the most incredulous mind, that our naval superiority still continues unshaken and unimpaired.

In sailing into this port, a seaman will find the following observations of service.

The low spit of land called *Sandy* or *Harbour Point* is so steep under water, that it may be safely rounded at the distance of half a cable's length, by any ship not drawing more than twenty-two feet. The best anchorage is between *Sandy Point* and the main land, with from nine to ten fathoms water: the point bearing about N. by W. or N. N. W. Care ought to be taken to moor with an open hause to the *south-west*. The tides flow about ten o'clock at the full and change of the moon, and the rise and fall is about seven feet.

June the twenty-fourth.—At the first dawn of day, the author, and a party of officers, proceeded upon a fishing excursion, to a small river at a short distance up the bay. Upon our first arrival at the place,

place, we found the *musquitos* exceedingly tormenting; but our spirits revived when we perceived *trout* leaping in all directions from the surface of the water. About 8 A. M. a gentle breeze sprung up, and in an instant the *musquitos* disappeared. We remained at our sport until the afternoon; when we returned on board, with twenty-five dozen of large trout, taken in the course of six hours' fishing.

June the twenty-fifth.—The Purser of the ship, and the author, again repaired to the river for trout. We had proceeded but a short distance up the stream, and were busily occupied with our sport, when a musket was discharged in the woods behind us; and, after uttering a loud *halloo*, an *Indian* burst through the thicket, with a gun in his hand. At first we did not much relish his appearance, and accordingly caught

caught up our fowling-pieces: but it was impossible to suspect him long; for, with a smile upon his countenance, he advanced gently forward; taking off his cap with one hand, whilst with the other he laid down his musket upon the trunk of a fallen tree. We offered him *rum*, which, to our utter astonishment, he refused; but he accepted of some biscuit and boiled pork. The following conversation then ensued between us. We first inquired, where he was going, and at what he had fired. "*Me go get salmon gut, for bait, for catchee* "*cod. Me fire for play, at litteel bird.*" Observing the word *Tower* marked on the lock of his musket, we said, "This is an "*English* gun." "*May be. Me no get um* "*of Ingeles; me get um of Scotchee ship: me* "*giveede Captain one carabou* (deer) *for um.*" —"Do you go to-morrow to catch cod?" "*Ees: me go to-morrow catchee cod:* "*next day, catchee cod: next day come*

"*seven*

" *seven day* (Sunday); *me no catchee cod;* " *me takee book*, look up* GOD." We asked if the savage *Red Indians*, inhabiting the interior of the country, also *looked up to* GOD: when, with a sneer of the most ineffable contempt, he replied, " *No; no* " *lookee up* GOD: *killee all men dat dem see,* " *Red Indian no good.*"—Do you under- " stand the talk of the *Red Indians?*" " *Oh, no; me no talkee likee dem: dem* " *talkee all same dog, 'Bow, wow, wow!'* " This last speech was pronounced with a peculiar degree of acrimony: at the same time, he appeared so much offended at our last question, that we did not think it prudent to renew the dialogue. This *Indian* seemed highly diverted at seeing us catch the largest *trout* with such small rods, hooks,

* None of the *Indians* in *St. George's* Bay are able to read; but they have been taught almost *to adore the Bible*, by some *French* Missionary.

hooks, and lines; and he left us a short time afterwards, in great good humour.

In the evening of this day, some of our Officers went to a sort of rustic ball, given by the fishermen's daughters in a hut at *Sandy Point:* and on their return, they gave a comic description of their different partners, all of whom, it appeared, had been dressed in the most burlesque finery for the occasion.

June the twenty-sixth, at six in the morning, Mr. *Manley*, the purser, with the author, again left the ship, and proceeded in a small boat, or rather canoe, up the *Main River*, which empties itself into the head of *St. George's* Bay. We went thither to treat for the purchase of a young heifer which the owner of the canoe had for sale.

There

There is a bar of sand extending quite across the mouth of the *Main River*, and the sea generally breaks over it in a tremendous manner. Our sensations were not of the most pleasing kind, on the prospect of passing through this surf in so small a boat: but upon questioning our conductor as to the probability of danger, he spoke of the boat's oversetting as a circumstance very likely to happen; but then, he added, with the utmost complacency, that 'his boat was such a lively little thing, we could easily hang on the bottom of her, until the waves should toss us upon the strand*. We, however, succeeded in passing over the bar, without having occasion to trust to this dangerous expedient.

The *Main River* is a broad and tolerably deep

* We were afterwards informed that such occurrences are not at all unusual, in passing the bar of the *Main River*.

deep stream: its banks are composed of loose earth, covered with various *lichens*, and surmounted with noble forests of *spruce, larch, fir*, and *birch* trees.

Having agreed to purchase the heifer at the rate of one shilling per pound, we walked from the *Main River*, round the head of the bay, to the trout stream before mentioned, where we found an old man busily employed in catching salmon. Thence we pursued our walk over a stony beach, until we reached the *Indian wigwams*, situate on the *northern* shore of the bay. The village appeared to be entirely deserted by the men; and the women and children, being naturally shy of strangers, fled to the woods at our approach.

The *wigwams*, or habitations of the *Micmac Indians*, are constructed of *birch*-tree

tree bark in a conical shape*; and at the top there is an aperture for the smoke to escape through. They make their fires in the center of the hut; and suspend *deers-flesh* over it, to dry for the winter consumption. The same practice obtains amongst the *Laplanders* and most of the nomade tribes of *North America*†. We also perceived great quantities of stinking fish and bones lying scattered about their *wigwams;* together with canoes, and large fish-stages.

After strolling for some time about the village, we found two young male *Indians* stretched at their full length before a fire‡, who very civilly offered to row us on board the

* See the *Vignette* to this Chapter.

† See the representation of a Tent of *Cree Indians*, in the Author's '*Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay.*'

‡ "The *Indian* men are remarkable for their idleness, "upon which they seem to value themselves; saying, that to "labour would be degrading them, and belongs only to the "women." *Extract from Major Rogers's Account of North America.*

the *Rosamond* in one of their *bark* canoes. We readily accepted this proposal: and during our passage to the ship, we gathered from them the following interesting particulars relative to the first settlement of their tribe in *St. George's* Bay.

During our war with *America*, between the years 1775 and 1782, the *Micmac Indians*, inhabiting the island of *Cape Breton* and the parts adjacent, were amongst the number of our most inveterate enemies: but at length one of our military commanders having concluded an amicable treaty with them, he selected one of the most sagacious of their *Chiefs* to negotiate a peace with a neighbouring tribe, who were also hostile to the *English* cause. The old *Indian* ambassador succeeded in the object of his mission; and received, as his reward, the grant of a sterile tract of land in *St. George's* Bay, *Newfoundland*, together

together with permission to transport as many of his countrymen thither as might be willing to accompany him in the expedition. Accordingly, the old *Sachem* left his native land, accompanied by a strong party of *Indian* followers; and boldly launching out to sea in their own crazy shallops or canoes, they eventually reached *St. George*'s Bay in safety.

Such instances of bold navigation are not unusual amongst the *Indians* of *North America*, and particularly those of *Nova Scotia**. Without compass or chart, they are not perplexed in traversing the most boisterous

* "The *Indians* about *Nova Scotia* and the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* have frequently passed over to the *Labrador*, which is thirty or forty leagues, without a compass, and have landed at the very spot they first intended: and even in dark cloudy weather they will direct their course by land with great exactness; but this they do by observing the bark and boughs of trees; the *north side*, in this country, being always mossy, and the boughs on the *south side* the largest." *Extract from Major Rogers's Account of North America.*

boisterous seas or trackless deserts: necessity has taught them to be guided by natural appearances: and there can be no doubt but that such was also the confined practice of *European* navigators, previous to the important discovery of the magnetic needle.

The first act of the *Micmacs,* upon their arrival in *Newfoundland,* was to appoint the old *Indian,* who had conducted them thither, their *Chief* in perpetuity; and they next "*buried the sword,*" as a symbol that war had for ever ceased between their tribe and the *English* nation. Since this period, they have been making a gradual progress towards civilization: and by frequent intermarriages with the *European* settlers at *Sandy Point,* the race became so intermingled, that, at the time we visited them, the number of *pure Indians* did not exceed fifty, exclusive of women and children.

In

In their persons, they are robust and tall; with amazing coarse features, very high cheek bones, flattened noses, wide nostrils, small eyes widely separated from each other, and thick black hair hanging perpendicularly from either temple*. They are dressed, for the most part, in apparel which they procure from the *Europeans* at *Sandy Point*, in exchange for *fish*, *oil*, and *furs*: however, they still preserve a few originalities in their costume, such as *deer-skin* sandals, embroidered red caps, and red cloth greaves in lieu of stockings.

The *Micmacs* are, in their dispositions, naturally good-natured, and exceedingly civil towards strangers; but when intoxicated, their whole manner changes. Spirituous liquors, of which they are excessively fond, will, in an instant, convert a peaceful and inoffensive *Indian* into a most

* In fact, corresponding very accurately with the descriptions travellers have given of the people called *Calmucks*.

most ferocious savage. The women and children are then compelled to seek refuge in the woods. The barbarian, not finding any person on whom he dare wreak his brutal vengeance, will attack his own wretched *wigwam*, break every article it contains, and probably complete the wreck by tearing the whole fabric to the ground; nay, even the barrel of his musket is frequently bent double, and the stock broken in pieces; although he generally esteems his fowling-piece as more valuable and dearer to his heart than either his wife or his children.

If this infuriate maniac be visited on the following morning, he will be found sitting upon the ground, with his family around him, lamenting, in bitter terms, the effects of his preceding debauch. Nevertheless, they have a wonderful facility at repairing the damages occasioned by their frequent fits

fits of intoxication: the *wigwam* is easily rebuilt, the broken utensils are quickly mended, the musket stock is bound together with slips of raw hide, and the barrel is twisted and bent upon the knee until it is found to carry correctly towards its aim*.

Murders are very uncommon amongst this people; but broken heads, loss of eyes, and deep cuts, are frequently inflicted during their drunken quarrels. It is really astonishing, that, although they be implacable in revenging a deliberate insult, yet they

* One of the *Indians* visiting the *Rosamond* when the officers were amusing themselves by shooting at a bottle suspended from the yard-arm, was requested to exhibit his skill as a marksman in the same way. Accordingly, he went to the arm-chest to select a musket for this purpose, turning over several before he found one to his liking. At length, taking up a marine's firelock, he held it to his eye, to see if it were perfectly straight; then, shaking his head, he took the barrel out of the stock, and repeatedly bent it, in different directions, over his knee: afterwards, he replaced it in the stock; and then, walking forward with a confident air, he levelled the piece, and, in an instant, shivered the bottle to atoms.

smile at the notion of any person being permitted to subsist in total idleness, upon the labour of his fellow-creatures.

In some cases, the *Indians* we are describing prove excellent surgeons, particularly in their treatment of cuts, ulcers, and bruises; but they have not the slightest idea of the means necessary to be pursued in setting a dislocated joint. Their skill in medicine is likewise very trifling. The climate produces but few diseases; and they are consequently but little acquainted with remedies*.

Since

* The following additional remarks concerning the *Micmac Indians* were communicated to the author by *John Duke*, Esq. Surgeon of the *Rosamond*, and nephew of the celebrated Dr. *Burnet*, formerly Physician to the *Mediterranean* Fleet.

"I do not remember observing any acute or even chronic "diseases amongst them. We were much struck at the "care and tenderness evinced by the younger part of the "community towards those who, from infirmity or age, were "rendered incapable of assisting themselves. I saw several "instances of old persons unable to walk, and deprived of "sight

Since their original migration from the island of Cape *Breton*, the *Micmacs* have frequently changed their abode to different places within the limits of *St. George*'s Bay. They had, however, resided about nine years in the spot where we found them. Unburthened by taxes of any kind, they are proportionably active and industrious. An *Indian* is here animated to labour, by the certainty that what he earns is his own property, and that his superior gains do not render him liable to heavier impositions.

Independent of the colony of *Micmac Indians*, there are, in *St. George*'s Bay, thirteen families of *Europeans*, or their descendants, who have been born in this place.

" sight or hearing, who appeared to be regarded by the " whole tribe as objects most worthy of their attention.

" The first request made by their Chief to me, was for a " *lancet*; and I was surprised to observe that they could use " this instrument, in bleeding, with some skill and adroitness. " Upon the whole, I am inclined to think that they enjoy, in " general, excellent health."

place. Owing to a contrariety in their religious opinions, eleven of them are called *English* families, and the remainder are denominated *French;* the former styling themselves *Protestants,* and the latter *Catholics.* We inquired into the method of performing the marriage ceremony, and interring the dead: and were informed, that the *Crusoe*-looking being, whom we had met with upon first entering the place*, possessed a licence from *St. John's,* to perform the functions of a priest. "He was "the only person residing there," they said, "who knew how to read!" and he officiated at all the religious ceremonies of both *Protestants* and *Catholics.*

The whole of the white population did not amount to more than one hundred and twelve persons: and estimating the *Indian* colony at ninety-seven, *St. George's* Bay may

* See pages 65, 66.

may be said to have contained about two hundred and nine souls altogether, including *English, French, Indians, women,* and *children.*

Every person owning a boat in *Newfoundland,* or the *Labrador,* is compelled to pay sixpence per annum towards the support of *Greenwich* Hospital†; but the difficulty of collecting this simple tax is inconceivably great. A ship of war usually visits the different ports around the coast, for that purpose: and there have been instances known of such an excursion not having produced more than the small sum of three pounds sterling, and *a few casks of salted salmon.* This singular difficulty, in the collection of so very trifling an imposition, arises solely from the great scarcity of specie in this country, as almost the whole internal

† The Colony of *Micmac Indians,* in *St. George's* Bay, are not subject to this or any other tax.

internal trade of *Newfoundland* is carried on by *barter;* so that the masters of fisheries have frequently been compelled to pay even their simple boat-duty in the current commodities of the island.

During our stay in *St. George*'s Bay, we gathered the sum of *five pounds*, as a part of the arrears due to His Majesty. Our unprecedented success at this place, in obtaining so considerable a portion of the revenue, originated in the circumstance of a little cash having been put in circulation by the officers of the *Rosamond*, in making purchases of *fish*, *furs*, and *cattle*.

During the whole of *June* the twenty-seventh, it blew so violent a gale from the *north-east*, that we were compelled to veer away cable, and bring both our anchors a-head. Towards evening, as the wind did not abate, we struck our topmasts; and

in

in this state our ship rode through the night in perfect safety.

July the 1*st*.—We at length quitted *St. George*'s Bay, to the evident regret of its peaceful inhabitants, with whom we had been on the most friendly terms since our first arrival in the place.

It was not our Captain's intention to touch at any more ports in *Newfoundland* at present; but to proceed immediately, in pursuance of the orders which he had received, to watch over and protect the *British* fisheries established upon the Coast of *Labrador*.

CHAP. IV.

FROM ST. GEORGE'S BAY, IN NEWFOUNDLAND, TO L'ANSE-A-LOUP BAY, IN LABRADOR.

Probable Formation of the Straits of BELLE-ISLE—*Expedition of* Richéry—*Narrow Escape*—Green *Island*—Bradore *Bay*—L'Anse le Blanc—*Anchor at* Forteau—Esquimaux, *or Fishing Indians*—Mountaineer *or Hunting Indians*—Forteau *Bay*—*Europeans of* Forteau—*Admiral of the Fishery*—*Sail from* Forteau—*Anchor at* L'Anse à Loup.

THE Straits of *Belle-isle* is the name given to that narrow channel which separates the island of NEWFOUNDLAND from the Continent of NORTH AMERICA. They are about thirty leagues in length; and, in the narrowest part, not more than ten miles wide.

To

To those who are curious in tracing the primary causes that have produced the present configuration of the globe, it will at once appear probable, that the island of NEWFOUNDLAND was, at no very remote period, joined to the coast of LABRADOR. It possibly existed in the shape of a vast *peninsula*, until the first rushing down of the mighty river *St. Lawrence:* when, perhaps, the narrow *isthmus*, being unable to resist the fury of the torrent, gave way, and opened a *northern* channel, whereby that noble stream might disembogue itself into the ATLANTIC OCEAN. In searching for the remains of the former *isthmus*, to support the hypothesis here suggested, the islands of *Belle-isle* and *Quirpon* present themselves, stretched like a broken ridge across the *Straits* between the *south-eastern* extremity of LABRADOR, called *Cape Charles*, and the *north-eastern* promontory of NEWFOUNDLAND. For many

years

years after the *British* fisheries had been established upon the LABRADOR coast, the Straits of *Belle-isle* were conjectured to be extremely dangerous as a passage for large vessels. About the year 1795, the *French* Admiral *Richéry*, taking advantage of our ignorance in this respect, entered the Straits with a flying squadron, where he did considerable damage to the fisheries. Messrs. *Noble, Pinson,* and *Son,* who possessed a considerable settlement in *L'Anse-à-Loup* Bay, with their own hands set fire to their large magazine of provisions and stores, that they might not serve as a supply to refresh the enemy's squadron. By this patriotic action the mercantile house in question incurred a loss of twenty thousand pounds; for which disinterested and loyal conduct they have never been, in the slightest degree, remunerated by the *British* Government.

Since

Since this disaster, a King's ship is usually stationed in the Straits of *Belle-isle*, during war, to guard the fisheries until the end of the season; when the *ice*, by entirely blocking up the channel, affords a sufficient security until the approach of the ensuing summer.

On the 4th of *July*, we imagined ourselves to be near the entrance of the Straits; but such a thick fog prevailed, that we could scarce distinguish the end of our ship's jib-boom. And here we were destined to owe our safety, as in a former instance*, to the acute ears of Captain *Campbell;* who, upon listening very attentively, and putting his head as near as possible to the surface of the sea, could faintly distinguish the dashing of a surf, apparently at no great distance from the ship. The *lead* was immediately thrown overboard;

* See page 22.

board, and it struck bottom with thirty-five fathoms of line. No time was to be lost, as the roaring of the breakers could now be distinctly heard by every person on board: we therefore let fall the anchor, to await the dispersion of the fog. At length the vapour slowly cleared away; and our astonishment may be conceived, when we perceived the black rocks of *Green* Island within a quarter of a mile of the *Rosamond*, with the wrecks of two large ships lying bilged upon the beach! * Had it not been for the attentive vigilance of our skilful Commander, it is certain that our ship would have completed a dismal *trio* upon the shores of this desolate and dangerous island.

Green Island is an uninhabited spot, lying at the mouth of a deep inlet, called *Bradore* Bay;

* Two large timber ships, from *Canada*, had been stranded upon *Green* Island, a short time previous to our arrival in the Straits of *Belle-isle*.

Bay; and there is anchorage between it and the coast of *Labrador*: but a heavy swell of the sea renders the roadstead dangerous for large vessels†.

Bradore Bay takes its name, perhaps, from La Brador; as it is situate upon the southern side of that immense peninsula, and near the entrance of a large gulph, called *Esquimaux* Bay. It has depth of water sufficient to float a frigate; but, at the same time, is rendered useless as a harbour, by the incalculable number of small rocks which it contains. *Bradore* Bay is also much exposed to the violence of the *westerly* winds: it may therefore be considered a very unsafe anchorage for ships of heavy burthen. In consequence of the dangers and inconveniences attending its

† While we were stationed on the *Labrador* coast, the *Bachelor* merchantman anchored between *Green* Island and the main land; and a heavy sea arising, her rudder was thereby absolutely thumped from the stern.

its navigation, this bay has not more than *ten* settled inhabitants, but it is frequently visited by the *Canadian* fishermen in summer.

The great *Esquimaux* Bay has a strong in-draught off its mouth, which is very liable to draw vessels out of their true course. It was owing solely to this circumstance that our ship had so nearly been driven upon *Green* Island.

L'Anse le Blanc, or *L'Anse le Clair,* is the next bay to the *eastward* of *Bradore.* This place contains about fifty inhabitants; but, like the latter, it is not a port capable of sheltering large vessels. The author has merely noticed *L'Anse le Blanc,* because it is said to contain the most extensive *seal* fishery that has been established in the Straits of *Belle-isle.*

Towards

Towards the evening of *July* the 5th, we anchored in *Forteau* Bay, on the coast of LABRADOR. From this time forward, as we were continually sailing to and fro about the Straits of *Belle-isle*, it will be unnecessary to notice the exact date of the observations; and, by discontinuing to do so, the description of LABRADOR will appear more regular and connected.

The whole of the *southern* coast of LABRADOR, bordering upon the Straits of *Belle-isle*, was originally inhabited by that singular nation, the *Esquimaux*. It is probable, also, that, during their summer voyages, they may have formerly been accustomed to visit the opposite shores of NEWFOUNDLAND: but their antipathy to a residence near *European* settlements has gradually induced them to remove farther towards the *north*; and we now find them inhabiting only those frozen tracts where

no *Europeans*, except the indefatigable *Moravian* Missionaries, would venture to take up their abode.

At *Sandwich* Bay, upon the *eastern* coast of LABRADOR, there are about eight or nine families of *British* settlers. Here it is that the encroachments of the fishermen have terminated; and, consequently, it is only in the vast regions to the *northward* of this bay that the habitations of the *Esquimaux* are to be found*. The *Europeans* have established a sort of yearly traffic with them; giving supplies of *ammunition, guns,* and *clothing*, in return for *furs, oil,* and *whalebone.*

* The author is aware, that, in his *Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay*, he has already described the manners and customs of the *Esquimaux* in their *totally savage state.* The observations respecting them in the present work will, therefore, be confined to those tribes that lie scattered along the coast of *Labrador*, from *Hudson's* Straits to *Sandwich* Bay; who, by their frequent intercourse with the *Europeans*, may be considered to be in a state of greater civilization than their more *northern* brethren.

whalebone. The *Indians* bring all their commodities to the Settlements by water, in large open boats, which they procure in barter from the fishermen; and, during the time occupied in their commercial voyages towards the *south,* the whole tribe repose at night beneath tents of *seal-skin,* made sufficiently roomy for their reception, and of materials that are equally impervious to wind or rain.

The dexterity displayed by the *Esquimaux,* in killing quadrupeds, birds, and fishes, for their subsistence, is not to be surpassed by the ingenuity of more polished nations. They are, moreover, honest in their principles, mild in their dispositions, and hospitable to *unprotected* strangers; but both sexes are much addicted to the pernicious use of spirituous liquors.

The *Moravian* Missionaries have laboured

hard to implant the *Christian* faith upon the shores of LABRADOR, and they have succeeded as well as could be expected; but the *Indians* are so attached to their antient superstitions, that they hesitate not *to sacrifice a favourite child on the grave of its deceased parent,* under a belief that their earthly dissolution is immediately succeeded by a blissful re-union above; and this they do, notwithstanding their consciousness of the enormity attending so horrid an action.

The *Esquimaux* are always well provided with their peculiar breed of *dogs;* in appearance so nearly resembling wolves, that they are easily mistaken for that animal. These *dogs* are so voracious and fierce, that they have been frequently known to devour the unprotected children of their masters: they are used by the *Indians* to drag their luggage over the snow in winter; and the young

young *dogs* are valued as a delicate species of food by the same people. The *seal* is eaten in a variety of ways. From the entrails they manufacture a thin transparent garment, which, like an oil-case, will keep out a great deal of rain. They are, however, strongly attached to *European* clothing; and seldom wear any other, when woollen dresses can possibly be procured.

The *Esquimaux Indians* have a method of entirely embanking their huts with turf and moss, excepting a small casement of oiled *seal-skin* at the top. By this means, they are enabled to exist the whole winter without the aid of fire; as the closeness of the habitation renders the place as warm as an oven.

The singular attachment of this people to their native land is worthy of observation. It is an incontestable fact, that the frozen seas

seas and icy valleys of the *North* present more forcible allurements to the roving *Esquimaux* than the gentle waves and cerulean skies of more temperate regions.

Such are the tribes who, in detached parties, inhabit the *sea-coast* of LABRADOR: but the *intérior* of this peninsula is occupied by a race of *Indians*, whose whole support is derived from animals which they kill in hunting. The latter are called *Mountaineers*, or *Hunting Indians*, by the *European* settlers; and are, in every respect, a distinct people from the *Esquimaux*. The latter obtains a precarious subsistence entirely by his labours upon the ocean; the other, by his activity upon the land. The *Hunting Indian*, unless when roused by the pressing calls of hunger, is slothful, stupid, arrogant, cowardly, and superstitious: the *Esquimaux*, on the contrary, is habitually active, enterprising, ingenious, and independent. The former

former possesses a set of features which is said to be decidedly *Tahtarian*, whilst the features of the latter bear a striking resemblance to the *Samoïedes* of *Europe**.

There are few tribes of *Hunting Indians* in LABRADOR that do not profess the *Catholic* religion; but the whole of their faith consists in paying a stupid homage to those little pictures of the Crucifixion that are strung about their swarthy necks by the *Canadian* Missionaries. They have fallen into the common error of all half-proselytes to Christianity; and, like the *Russian* peasantry, bestow that adoration on a symbol of the Divinity, which should only be paid to the Supreme Being. Ostentatious to excess of their Scriptural appellations, they have not imbibed a particle of that meek and charitable spirit which was so eminently conspicuous in the lives of their holy

* See the *Frontispiece.*

holy namesakes. Instead of living in "good-will towards men," they bear an hereditary and inveterate hatred to the *Esquimaux*, whom they consider to be the most abject and degraded of mankind—"*A set of dogs*," say they, "*without a* "*name**, *without courage, and without the* "*wisdom of a Mountaineer.*" With all this opinion of their own sagacity, they possess scarcely sufficient foresight to provide food for their winter consumption; and in invention they are manifestly inferior to the despised *Esquimaux*. They pretend to prognosticate the weather from the appearance of the Moon. When it is thus, or, as they explain it, when the Moon is in such a position that they can hang their shot-belt over the horn, fair and frosty weather may be expected: but when the luminary assumes a more perpendicular attitude,

* The *Esquimaux* have not yet adopted the use of *Christian* names.

attitude, thus,) the *Indians* affirm that fogs and warmth are certain to follow†.

A continual trade is carried on between the *Mountaineers* and the *Europeans*. The former bring down furs to the Settlements, and exchange them for *ammunition* and *clothing*. They are quite as fond of being clad in woollen apparel, as are their enemies the *Esquimaux;* and their inclination for intoxicating liquors is perhaps more violent. Although the *Hunting Indians* be very expert in the use of fire-arms, yet they are frequently compelled, by a scarcity of ammunition, to recur for support to their original weapons, the bow and arrows; and with these they can kill a flying partridge at forty yards' distance. Their *canoes* are

† There is a similar notion prevalent among seamen respecting the foretelling of weather by the Moon. They say, that "when the Moon *lies on her back*," it is the sure presage of an approaching storm.

are made of birch bark; and being quite portable and light, are usually carried with them across the deserts, together with the necessary materials for erecting their huts. The sledges are constructed of a thin birch board, turned up before, in this manner, and shod with slips of bone. The *Mountaineers* draw their own sledges; as their dogs are but small, and used only for the purposes of hunting.

It has been justly observed, that the numerous nations described by enthusiastic travellers as inhabiting the internal parts of *North America* are, in fact, nothing more than scanty *clans*, containing each but a few families of *Indians*. This remark, however, will apply but partially to the natives of LABRADOR: for, although the *Mountaineers* be divided into separate tribes, who each have a dialect peculiar to themselves, yet they form collectively a *great*

nation,

nation, in every respect dissimilar to the *Esquimaux*. The latter, also, have been admitted, by the best historians of *America**, to be a race so widely distinct, in language, manners, and customs, from the inhabitants of the interior, that they ought to be denominated an independent people. LABRADOR, therefore, contains two great and separate nations, however subdivided they may be found. The barrenness of the soil, and the difficulty of procuring subsistence, have naturally dispersed and scattered their numbers; whereas, had the very same nations been placed by Providence in those fertile countries that lie near the *Isthmus of Darien*, they would probably have become equally civilized with the antient *Peruvians* or *Mexicans*.

We will here conclude our sketch of the

* *Robertson's* Hist. of *America*, Vol. I. p. 307. Book IV.

the native inhabitants of LABRADOR, and proceed to a description of the principal Settlements of the *Europeans* on the south-east coasts of that country.

Forteau is a very extensive bay, situate about ten miles to the *eastward* of the before-mentioned *L'Anse le Blanc.* It is sheltered from all winds between *east* and *west* to the *northward,* and is considered as the most considerable of the *British* Establishments in the Straits of *Belle-isle;* yet it is certainly neither a convenient nor a secure anchorage. Large ships are compelled to ride upon the edge of a bank, in eighteen fathoms' water, lying near the *western* side of the bay. The holding-ground is very bad: and during a hard *westerly* gale, there is much danger of the anchor dragging off the bank; when the only chance of safety would consist in cutting the cable, and putting immediately

to

to sea: for the *eastern* shore is so rocky, that it would inevitably prove the destruction of any vessel which might happen to be driven upon it.

This bay is defended by [illegible]ains towards the *east* and *west*; but is particularly exposed to the violence of the *north* wind, when rushing through a valley at the head of it. The difficulty of watering, and the total impossibility of obtaining fire-wood, will ever render *Forteau* an inconvenient port for the resort of shipping.

A great jealousy exists between the *Guernsey* adventurers, who occupy the *western* side of this bay, and the *English* families established upon the opposite shore. The latter stigmatize the former as cheats and swindlers; whilst the former represent the latter to be notoriously knavish

knavish in all their dealings. The fact is, that they are only envious of each other's gains; and the *Guernsey* people, by being the most industrious, are generally the most calumniated. The vessels of these thriving islanders are slightly built, and calculated to make speedy voyages: so that by hurrying out to NEWFOUNDLAND as early in the year as possible, they quickly procure cargoes of *cod;* and as speedily recrossing the *Atlantic,* they by this means succeed in getting the first of the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* markets, whereby they obtain a high price for their fish, and incur the resentment of those who are less expeditions in their mercantile speculations. There are, in all, about eighteen boats constantly employed at *Forteau.* During the fishing season, the *English* reside in *Labrador* all the winter; but the *Guernsey*-men quit it in the autumn, and return thither again in the spring.

According

According to a curious old custom, the sum of sixty pounds sterling is annually bestowed upon the master of that vessel which may chance to arrive first at *Forteau*, in the beginning of the year; and the person who receives the reward is dignified by the title of *Admiral of the Fishery* for the ensuing season. Where there are no commissioned magistrates, it is the duty of this individual to take cognizance of offences. There are also a few trifling privileges attached to the office; amongst which, is the exclusive right to a salmon river at the head of the bay. When we were at *Forteau*, a *Guernsey* Captain had gained the reward; and by farming the salmon fishery for forty pounds more, he thus cleared the sum of one hundred pounds, without the least exertion or labour on his own part.

Having discovered that there was much more secure anchorage in a bay about six miles

miles to the *eastward* of *Forteau*, our Captain resolved to proceed thither without delay: accordingly, we left the former place on the eleventh of *July*, and reached *L'Anse a Loup*, or *Wolf Bay*, on the evening of the same day.

CHAP. V.

L'ANSE A LOUP.

Le Petit Nord—L'Anse à Loup—*Conflagration—Author leaves his Ship—Departure of the* Rosamond—*System of Bank-fishing from* Raynal—*Shore-fishery—Method of curing* Cod—*Qualities of Dried* Cod—*The* Capelin—*Scenery of* Labrador—*Berries—Birds—Animals—Fishes—Mosquitos.*

IT has been already related*, that the fishermen of *France* occupied the *northern* and *southern* shores of *Newfoundland*, previous to their total resignation of the island by the memorable Treaty of *Utrecht*. Those lands that border on the Straits of *Belle-isle* were called *Le Petit Nord*† by the people of that

* See page 40, Chap. II.

† *Raynal's* Hist. of the *East* and *West Indies*, Vol. VII. p. 193. Book xvii. *Lond.* 1783.

that nation; and most of the harbours then received the *French* appellations, which a greater number of them retain to the present day.

L'Anse à Loup is the safest open bay on the whole *southern* coast of LABRADOR. In its appearance, it somewhat resembles *Forteau;* as the same kind of lofty mountains defend it towards the *east* and *west;* and a similar valley at the head of the bay forms a passage, through which the furious *north* wind rushes, with tremendous violence. But the anchorage is here rendered more secure by the greater projection of the headlands; and the place may therefore be recommended as most eligible *head-quarters* for any ship of war that may be hereafter stationed to protect the *fisheries* of LABRADOR. In this point of view, one of its chief advantages will be found to consist in the facility with which a vessel may put to

sea,

sea, with the wind in any direction. From hence, also, a fine prospect may be commanded of the whole *Straits* of *Belle-isle*, and the opposite coast of *Newfoundland* from Point *Ferrolle* to Cape *Norman*.

On entering *L'Anse-à-Loup* Bay, a ship ought to steer for the center of the sandy beach, until the depth of water shoals to twelve or thirteen fathoms; when the anchor should be immediately dropped; as the holding-ground is not so good, if she approach any nearer towards the shore. It is also preferable to choose a situation to the *eastward*, rather than in the exact center of the bay; as the obtaining supplies of wood and water will thereby be greatly facilitated.

There is a small inlet, called *Bear Cove*, near the *south-west* extremity of the bay; containing the extensive *cod* and *seal*

fisheries of Mr. *Pinson*, a merchant of *Dartmouth*, who is the chief magistrate, and most considerable person upon the whole coast of LABRADOR.

Most excellent fresh water is easily procured from a fine stream that empties itself into the sea, in a *north-east* direction from the place of anchorage. Fire-wood is is also plentiful along the banks of the river; and it is from thence the inhabitants of *L'Anse à Loup* derive their supplies of fuel for the winter season.

On the third day after our arrival at this place, one of our seamen, whilst employed in felling timber for the ship's use, was so imprudent as to kindle a fire in the forest; in the hope, that, by the smoke, he would probably rid himself and his companions of the innumerable myriads of *mosquitos*, which tormented them almost

to

to madness.* This scheme succeeded to their utmost wish; and they were rejoicing at their deliverance, when, in an instant, the whole country appeared enveloped in fire! A high wind drove the flames from tree to tree, with the rapidity of lightning: and had it not been for the intervention of the river, the whole of the forest must have been inevitably reduced to ashes. As it was, all those trees which stood on the *western* side of the stream were consumed. An order was immediately issued by Captain *Campbell*, strictly prohibiting the lighting of fires upon the shore, under any pretence whatsoever: "for," as he expressed himself, "the negligence and carelessness of "one man had been nearly the cause of de-"priving a whole fishery, for years to come, "of

* This is the common practice of all the *Laplanders*; and the immense conflagrations in the north of *Sweden* and *Lapland* are chiefly owing to the same cause.

" of their only comfort in winter; whereby,
" perhaps, the inhabitants might have been
" led to consider His Majesty's ship more
" in the light of a free-booting enemy,
" than as a *British* man-of-war, sent hither
" on purpose to protect them from similar
" outrages."

The rapidity with which the flames spread in the forests of these countries has been noticed by many early writers. That such dreadful conflagrations frighten away the *rein-deer*, is certain. It has even been asserted, by *Stephanus Parmenus* (a learned *Hungarian*, born at *Buda*, who accompanied Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* in his voyage,) and " confirmed by very cre-
" dible persons, that when the like hap-
" pened by chance, *the fish never came near*
" *the place in seven years after*, by reason
" of the water being made bitter by the
" *turpentine*

turpentine and *resin* of the trees, which "ran into the rivers *."

The *Straits* of *Belle-isle* are not more than ten miles wide, immediately opposite to the bay of *L'Anse à Loup*. We therefore erected a signal-post upon the *south-west* promontory; and stationed a careful person there, to give us timely notice, should any suspicious vessel make her appearance in the *Straits*. We also placed a few small cannon near the same spot; so that we might be enabled, at any future period, to ascertain the position of our ship, in the event of her being again enveloped in one of those dangerous fogs, that, in a former instance, had been so nearly the cause of her destruction.

A previous

* See an account of Sir *Humphrey Gilbert*'s Voyage to *Newfoundland*; written by *Stephanus Parmenus Budeus* to the Rev. Mr. *Richard Hakluyt*, M. A. at *Christ Church, Oxford*.—In *Harris*'s Collection of Voyages and Travels, 1705.

A previous residence of many years in a tropical climate had rendered the author liable to a rheumatic disorder, which the chilly and dense atmosphere of *Labrador* was peculiarly qualified to excite; and its consequent paroxysms became so violent, that he was soon unable to attend to his duty on board the ROSAMOND. This being known to Mr. *Pinson*, one of the resident merchants, he requested and obtained permission to remove the invalid to his own house; where, for a length of time, he patiently bestowed the most benevolent attentions upon his guest, allowing him every comfort necessary for the restoration of his health: an obligation which the author can only repay by this acknowledgment of his kindness *.

The

* It was from this gentleman, also, that the author derived a great share of his information respecting the *Fisheries*, &c. —Mr. *Pinson* possessed a most intelligent mind, in addition to the experience of twenty years' residence on the *Labrador* coast.

The day after this removal took place, the ROSAMOND sailed away, in an *easterly* direction, towards *Red* Bay. It was Captain *Campbell*'s intention to collect the *boat-tax* in most of the harbours of LABRADOR, previously to his quitting the coast in the fall of the year.

A residence of some time in the midst of a *cod-fishery*, during the bustle and confusion of the season, afforded a good opportunity for making a few remarks upon the method of catching and curing *cod* in NEWFOUNDLAND; and the author has inserted them the more willingly, because he has found, since his return to *England*, that, although many have attempted to describe the same, very little reliance ought to be placed upon their representations †.

For

† The author's observations relate exclusively to the *British Fisheries*. In 1813, the wars of *Europe* prevented all other nations from participating in them.

For many years after the first colonization of NEWFOUNDLAND, the whole of the *cod-fishery* was confined to the great banks of *sand* lying off this island, in the *Atlantic Ocean*. Of late years, however, it has been discovered that *cod-fish* abound equally along the shores of the island itself. At this time, the war with *America* had almost annihilated the *Bank-fisheries*; and it was owing to this circumstance that the author had no opportunity of describing them from personal observation: but he has ventured to insert a brief extract* from a celebrated work on the subject of *Bank-fishing*: merely adding, that it is now the custom to carry the *cod* on shore, and dry them in the sun, after they have been salted in the manner which is there mentioned.

* Previous to their beginning the *fishery*, they

* *Raynal's* Hist. of the *East* and *West Indies*, Vol. VII. p. 198. Book xvii. *Lond.* 1783.

" they build a gallery on the outside of the " ship, which reaches from the main-mast " to the stern, and sometimes the whole " length of the vessel. This gallery is " furnished with barrels, with the tops " beaten out. The *fishermen* place them- " selves within these, and are sheltered from " the weather by a pitched covering " fastened to the barrels. As soon as they " catch a *cod*, they cut out its tongue; and " give the fish to one of the boys, to carry " it to a person appointed for the purpose, " who immediately strikes off the head, " plucks out the liver and entrails, and then " lets it fall, through a small hatch-way, " between decks; when another man takes " it, who draws out the bone as far as the " navel, and then lets it sink, through " another hatch-way, into the hold, where " it is salted and ranged in piles. The " person who salts it takes care to leave salt " enough between each row of fish, but not

" more

more than is sufficient, to prevent their "touching each other: for either of these cir-"cumstances neglected, would spoil the *cod*."

In another place, the same author says, that the *cod* which is only salted, is called "*green cod*, and is caught upon the great "*bank**."

We will now proceed to describe what is called the *Shore-fishery*. The method of catching and curing the *cod*, in the latter, is the same throughout the whole of NEWFOUNDLAND and the *British* Settlements in LABRADOR.

There are a number of boats, fitted with masts and sails, belonging to each *fishery*; two or four men being stationed to a boat. At

* Although the *bank fishery* had been much discontinued at the time when the author was in NEWFOUNDLAND; yet it has since been revived, in consequence of the general peace prevailing over *Europe*.

At the earliest dawn of day, the whole of these vessels proceed to that part of the coast where the *cod* are most plentiful; for they move in shoals, and frequently alter their position, according to the changes of the wind. When the resort of the fish has been ascertained, the boats let fall their anchors, and the men cast over their lines. Each man has two lines to attend; and every line has two hooks affixed to it, which are baited either with *capelin*, or *herrings*. The men stand upon a flat flooring; and are divided from each other by a sort of *bins*, like shop-counters, placed athwart the center of the boat. Having drawn up the line, they lay the *cod* upon the *bin*, and strike it upon the back of the head with a piece of wood in the shape of a rolling-pin: this blow stuns the fish, and causes it to yawn its jaws widely asunder, by which means the hook is easily extracted. Then the fish is dropped into

the

the *bin*, and the line again thrown over; whilst the fisherman, instantly turning round, proceeds to pull up the opposite line: so that one line is running out, and the other pulling in, at the same instant. Thus the boatmen continue, until their vessel is filled; when they proceed to discharge their cargo at the sort of fishing-stage represented in the *Vignette* to Chapter II.

The *cod* are pitched from the boat, upon the stage, with a pike: care being taken to stick this pike into their heads; as a wound in the body might prevent the salt from having its due effect, and thereby spoil the *fish*. When the boats are emptied, the fishermen procure a fresh quantity of bait, and return again to their employment on the water; whence, in the course of an hour or two, perhaps, they again reach the stage with another cargo.

Having

Having thus explained the method of *cod-fishing*, it remains only to describe the manner of *curing*. Each *salting-house* is provided with one or more tables, around which are placed wooden chairs and leathern aprons, for the *cut-throats*, *headers*, and *splitters*. The *fish* having been thrown from the boats, a boy is generally employed to bring them from the stage, and place them on the table before the *cut-throat*; who rips open the bowels, and, having also nearly severed the head from the body, he passes it along the table to his right-hand neighbour, the *header*, whose business it is to pull off the head, and tear out the entrails: from these he selects the *liver*, and, in some instances, the *sound*. The *head* and *entrails* being precipitated through a trunk into the sea, the *liver* is thrown into a cask, whence it distils in oil; and the *sounds*, if intended for preservation, are salted. After having undergone this

operation,

operation, the *cod* is next passed across the table to the *splitter*, who cuts out the *back-bone* as low as the navel, in the twinkling of an eye. From hence the *cod* are carried in hand-barrows to the *salter*; by whom they are spread, in layers, upon the top of each other, with a proper quantity of salt between each layer. In this state the *fish* continue for a few days; when they are again taken, in barrows, to a sort of wooden box, full of holes, which is suspended from the stage in the sea. The *washer* stands up to his knees in this box, and scrubs the salt off the cod with a soft mop. The fish are then taken to a convenient spot, and piled up to drain; and the heap, thus formed, is styled "a *water-horse*." On the following day, the *cod* are removed to the *fish-flakes*, where they are spread in the sun to dry: and from thenceforward they are kept constantly turned during the day, and piled up in small heaps, called *flackets*, at

at night. The upper fish are always laid with their bellies downward; so that the skin of their backs answers the purpose of a thatch, to keep the lower fish dry. By degrees, the size of these *flackets* is increased, until, at length, instead of small parcels, they assume the form of large circular stacks; and in this state the *cod* are left for a few days, as the fishermen say, "*to sweat*." The process of *curing* is now complete; and the *fish* are afterwards stored up in warehouses, lying ready for exportation.

With such amazing celerity is the operation of *heading*, *splitting*, and *salting*, performed, that it is not an unusual thing to see ten *cod-fish* decapitated, their entrails thrown into the sea, and their *back-bones* torn out, in the short space of one minute and a half.

The *Splitter* receives the highest wages,

and holds a rank next to the *Master* of a FISHERY: but the *Salter* is also a person of great consideration, upon whose skill the chief preservation of the *cod* depends.

There are *three* qualities of cured *cod-fish* in NEWFOUNDLAND. They are distinguished by the different titles of—

Merchantable fish: those of the largest size, best colour, and altogether finest quality.

Madeira fish; which are nearly as valuable as the former. This sort is chiefly exported to supply the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* markets.

West-India fish: the refuse of the whole. These last are invariably sent for sale, to feed the *Negroes* of the *Caribbee* Islands.

In the principal harbours of NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR, there are sworn *umpires*, appointed for the purpose of arbitrating

arbitrating between *buyer* and *seller*, to ascertain correctly the different qualities of the *fish*, and to regulate the respective prices of each.

It has already been observed, that the *cod* are taken by hooks, baited either with *capelin* or *herrings*. The latter is a kind of *fish* well known in *Europe*; but the *capelin* seem to be peculiar to the coasts of NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR. As they are equally plentiful with the *cod* in those countries, and are, as a bait, so essentially necessary towards obtaining the latter, a short account of them may not be unacceptable to the reader; particularly as these *fish* have been strangely overlooked by the most distinguished naturalists.

The *capelin* is a small and delicate species of *fish*, greatly resembling the *smelt*. It visits the shores we are describing about the

months of *August* and *September*, for the evident purpose of depositing its spawn upon the sandy beaches. At such times, the swarms of these fish are so numerous, that they darken the surface of the sea for miles in extent, whilst the *cod* prey upon them with the utmost voracity. The manner of the *capelin's* depositing its spawn is one of the most curious circumstances attending its natural history. The male fishes are somewhat larger than the female, and are provided also with a sort of *ridge*, projecting on each side of their back-bones, similar to the eaves of a house, in which the female *capelin* is deficient. The latter, on approaching the beach to deposit its spawn, is attended by two male fishes, who huddle the female between them, until her whole body is concealed under the projecting *ridges* before mentioned, and only her head is visible. In this state they run, all three together, with great swiftness, upon the

the sands; when the males, by some imperceptible inherent power, compress the body of the female betwixt their own, so as to expel the spawn from an orifice near the tail. Having thus accomplished its delivery, the three *capelin* separate; and, paddling with their whole force through the shallow surf of the beach, generally succeed in regaining, once more, the bosom of the deep.

It is an entertaining sight, while standing upon the shore, to observe myriads of these fishes, forsaking their own element, and running their bodies on the sand, in all directions. Many of them find it totally impossible to return to the water, and thus the beaches of LABRADOR are frequently covered with dead *capelin*. They have so little timidity, that when the author has waded into the sea, amidst a shoal of them, he has taken two or three at a time,

time, in his hands. Upon these occasions, he was enabled to ascertain, beyond a doubt, that the evacuation of the spawn is caused by a *compression* on the part of the males; as, when thus taken in the hand, the female *capelin* invariably yielded up its spawn the instant that it received the slightest pressure from the fingers.

The *capelin* are sometimes salted and dried by the *fishermen*, and afterwards toasted, with butter, for their breakfasts.

The *Rosamond* had quitted *L'Anse à Loup* but a few days; when the author, taking his fishing apparatus with him, proceeded, on a solitary ramble, to the *trout river* at the *north-eastern* part of the bay. He had gone more than two thirds of the way, when, on turning round, he perceived a prodigious female *bear*, with her two *cubs*, sitting upon that part

part of the beach which he had just crossed. The situation was not an enviable one: for the *Fishery* was nearly two miles distant; the *bear* occupied the only road back; the *trout river* terminated the advance in front: added to all which, the author was totally unarmed, and almost unable to move, from the effects of a most violent rheumatic affection in his hip joint. Under all these circumstances, there remained but one plan for his adoption; which was, to remain stationary at the river, until the *bear* should choose to decamp. Accordingly, he proceeded with his fishing; and, had it not been for the apprehensions excited by the gruff-looking savage in the rear, the sport would have afforded considerable diversion. At last, however, the *bear* and her *cubs* rose from their resting-place, and turned off into the woods; while the author hobbled back to the *Fishery*, with a full determination never to venture forth again alone, without

without being well provided with fire-arms, or some other means of defence.

LABRADOR presents the most varied, and, in some places, the most majestic scenery. Near the sea, lofty rocks* cast their embrowning

* The nature of the rocks of *Newfoundland* remains to be ascertained; more knowledge being actually possessed of the *minerals* of LABRADOR than of this island. The inattention shewn to this important subject is generally a discreditable characteristic of our own nation, whether in voyages of discovery or of commerce. The *French* were actually better acquainted with the *mineralogy* and *geology* of NEWFOUNDLAND, in the beginning of the *eighteenth* century, than we are in the *nineteenth*. Baron *Lahontan*, who was Lord Lieutenant of the *French* colony at *Placentia*, in the observations prefixed to his accurate map of the island, tells us, that in *Newfoundland*, as well as in *Cape Breton*, they found *porphyry* of several colours; and he adds, that care had been taken to send specimens of it to *France*. "I have seen," says he, "some of those *porphyries*, that were *red*, streaked "with *green*, and seemed to be extremely fine. The island "of *Cape Breton* affords, likewise, *black marble*, and a sort of "*breccia* with grey veins."—*Lahontan's New Voyages to North America, vol.* I. *p.* 225. *London*, 1703.

But the most remarkable *mineral* product of *Cape Breton* and *Newfoundland*, and certainly the most important to *Great Britain*, is the *coal* mentioned by *Raynal*, and strongly

embrowning shadows upon the surface of the water. Farther inland, the country is diversified with mountain and plain, woods and waters, naked rocks, and an assemblage of the most beautiful mosses, of every hue that can possibly be enumerated. In one place, a swampy marsh produces the most luxuriant grasses: in another, the dry

strongly insisted upon by *Williams**, as being found abundantly in those islands. Several navigators, who had been at *Louisberg*, assured *Williams*, that *Cape Breton* abounds with *coal*; to such a degree, as to appear in the cliffs near the harbour. We are further informed by *Raynal*, that a *seam* of *coal* was set on fire at *Cape Breton*, which burned with great fury. The existence of abundance of *coal* in the island of *Newfoundland* is understood to be an established fact; and this, on account of its vicinity to the great *fishing bank*, is a more important situation for *coal* than *Cape Breton*. "The latter," says *Williams*†, "may be called the key of *Canada*; but *Newfoundland* is the asylum and defence of the *cod fishery*; and the value of this great nursery for sailors is of the utmost consequence to a maritime and commercial nation, whose natural and surest defence is her naval force." *Newfoundland*, *Cape Breton*, and the peninsula of *Nova Scotia*, are all in the true line of the bearing of the strata of *coal*, and others in the same parallels of latitude in other countries.

* Nat. Hist. of Min. Kingd. Vol. I. p. 179. *Edinb.* 1789.

† Ibid. See pp. 189, 193, &c.

dry moss is variegated by innumerable clusters of wild currants, gooseberries, raspberries, hurtleberries, cranberries, strawberries, partridge-berries, and what is called, by the fishermen, the *baked-apple-berry*. This last fruit abounds in LABRADOR, and bears a strong resemblance to the yellow raspberry*. A sort of wild *spinach* grows in great abundance in the *southern* parts of this country; and *cabbages* or *turnips* may be produced by proper cultivation.

With respect to the feathered race, LABRADOR abounds, in the season, with *wild geese* and *ducks, grouse, plovers, partridges, yellow-legs, hawks, eagles, jays*, a great number of smaller *birds*, and a numerous variety of *owls*. The latter find an ample

* The author has since ascertained, that this delicious fruit can be no other than that of the *Rubus Chamæmorus* of *Linnæus*; called *Cloud-berry*, in *England*.

ample subsistence in the myriads of *mice* that swarm among the rotten mosses of the interior†. A sort of *curlew* makes its appearance here about the middle of *August*, and as suddenly takes its departure towards the end of *September*: they move in flights containing many thousands; and when gorged with food, it is not unusual to kill ten or twelve at a shot: at such times, they are found to be exceedingly plump and

† These are probably of the same nature as the *Alpine mice* of LAPLAND, called *Lemmick* in that country, and *Lemblar* by *Samuel Rheen*, as cited by *John Scheffer*, who gives to this little quadruped the name of *Lemmus*. It is said that the *rein-deer* eat them. They descend, as it were in a vast army, from the mountains; and pursue their course *northward*, in a direct line, until they are lost in the *Icy Sea*. A long account of them is given by *Scheffer*; and *Wormius* has afforded a description, accompanied by a figure of the animal, in his Chapter of Rarities. Their colour is *red* and *black*; but in winter, *white*: and they have short tails. They are not seen every year: but when they make their appearance, the ground is covered by their multitudes.—"*Non apparent hæ quotannis, sed quibusdam tantùm tempo-*"*ribus, veniuntque ex abrupto tanta copia, ut per totam se* "*diffundant terram*," &c. *Olaus Wormius* apud *J. Scheffer. Lappon.* cap. 29. p. 344. *Franc.* 1673.

and delicate, and far surpassing any of our *English* Game in richness and flavour. Their whistle, colour, and size, greatly resemble the plover; but their beak is much longer than that of a snipe; although they feed entirely upon berries.

This country abounds in wild animals; such as, *bears, wolves, foxes, hares, martens, deer, lynxes, squirrels,* and *porcupines.* The latter are very numerous in the woods; and their flesh is esteemed a great delicacy among the fishermen. *Wolves* and *foxes* are seldom seen, except in winter; when hunger forces them to seek their food even at the very doors of the Settlements: they are then frequently caught in traps, concealed under the snow, and baited with flesh or fish. The superior cunning of the *fox* is here most conspicuous; for it has frequently been seen to discharge the *spring,* by dropping a large stone into the trap; and thus possess

possess itself of the bait without the least risk of its safety.

During the time of the author's stay at *L'Anse à Loup*, an immense *wolf* had made itself very obnoxious, by its frequent nightly depredations on the poultry-yard. For a length of time, this animal escaped the whole of the bullets that were fired at it; until a young man shot it dead from the window of a store-house belonging to the *Fishery* *.

The *Newfoundland dog* is an animal well known in *England*, for its attachment to the water; but the true breed has become scarce, and is rarely to be found, except upon

* The fine skin of this animal was brought to *England*, and presented by the author to *John Marten Cripps*, Esq. of *Epsom, Surrey*. This gentleman is well known to the world as the fellow traveller of Dr. *Clarke*. Since his return to his native country, Mr. *Cripps* has distinguished himself by the *active practice* of every Christian virtue, and especially in the important discharge of his duty as a Magistrate.

upon the coast of LABRADOR. Most of the *Fisheries* are plentifully supplied with these *dogs*, and they prove of great utility in dragging home the winter fuel. They are also employed in NEWFOUNDLAND for the same purpose, where they are usually yoked in pairs. Such is the disregard of these creatures for cold, that, when the thermometer of *Fahrenheit* has indicated twenty degrees below *Zero*, they have been known to remain in the sea during an entire hour. The fishermen feed their *dogs* upon salted *hallibut*, or, indeed, any other sort of food; for they are an extremely voracious animal, and will devour almost any thing. Their docility is so remarkable, that they will leap from the summit of the highest cliff into the water, in obedience to the commands of their master. To man they are ever gentle and good-natured; so much so, indeed, that it has been very customary, of late years, to cross their breed with

with an *English* bull-dog, whereby they are rendered more fierce and surly towards strangers. It is pretended that a thorough-bred *Newfoundland dog* may be known by certain black marks on the roof of its mouth; but this is by no means a *positive* proof, as many other kinds of *dogs* have the same mark.

The author has already mentioned, in a former work, the method of travelling with these *dogs*, as practised by the *European* settlers in LABRADOR *. The *sledge* used for this purpose is about twelve feet in length, shod on each side with whale-bone, and covered with the skin of the *polar bear*. It is drawn by ten or twelve *dogs*, yoked two and two, with a harness made of slips of *seal-skin*. Two of the most sagacious and best-trained *dogs* are placed in front, as leaders; no reins being necessary; for

* See *Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay*, p. 106.

for the animals will naturally follow a beaten track through the snow; and they are easily guided by a long whip, the lash of which extends to the foremost *dogs*. The rate of travelling varies, according to the state of the snow; but it seldom exceeds ten, and is never less than six, miles an hour.

The author once went, accompanied by Mr. *Pinson*, to examine a *salmon net* at the *trout river*. In crossing the bay, the *cod* were so plentiful, that we killed several of them with the oars of the boat. We found five fine *salmon* stuck fast with their gills through the net, which extended from one side of the river to the other. Although it may seem incredible, yet it is nevertheless true, that in the short space of two hours the author caught *twelve dozen* trout, with one and the same artificial fly. During our stay at the river, however, the *mosquitos* had

had made such havoc upon us, that our heads were swelled to an enormous size before we regained the *Fishery;* and it was many days before the marks of their stings entirely disappeared.

Whitbourne, consistently with his usual propensity to represent every thing relating to NEWFOUNDLAND and its vicinity in as favourable a light as possible, has discussed the subject of the *mosquitos* in a very facetious manner. Instead of justly representing them as a continual torment during the heat of summer, he says, "*Those Flies* "*seeme to haue a great power and authority* "*vpon all loytering people that come to the* "NEW-FOUND-LAND: *for they haue this pro-* "*perty, that when they finde any such lying* "*lazily, or sleeping in the Woods, they will* "*presently bee more nimble to seize on them,* "*than any Sargeant will bee to arrest a man* "*for debt: Neither will they leaue stinging or*

"*sucking out the blood of such sluggards,*
"*vntill, like a Beadle, they bring him to his*
"*Master, where hee should labour: in which*
"*time of loytering, those Flies will so brand*
"*such idle persons in their faces, that they*
"*may be known from others, as the Turkes doe*
"*their slaues.**"

* Conclusion to *Whitbourne*'s Discourse and Discovery of *Newfoundland.*

CHAP. VI.

FROM L'ANSE A LOUP TO PORT SANDERS.

Return of the Rosamond—*Cruize*—Bonne *Bay*—*Anchor at* L'Anse à Loup—*Mosses*—*Sail from* L'Anse à Loup —*Ice Bergs* — Belle-isle — *Cape* Charles — *Salmon Fishery* — *Cape* Château — *Geological Observations* —*Extraordinary Currents*—*Chace*—*Anchor at* L'Anse à Loup—*Sail from thence*—*Anchor at* Port Sanders.

WITHIN a fortnight from the time of her departure, the *Rosamond* again returned to *L'Anse à Loup*; but the Captain intending to take a short cruize in the Gulf of *St. Lawrence,* did not anchor in the bay. A boat was sent for the author; who thereupon rejoined his ship, and immediately she made sail towards the *west.*

For about a week after this, nothing occurred worthy of notice, until we steered in towards the *western* coast of *Newfoundland*. In the morning, we came in sight of the *Blow-me-down* Hills, a ridge of very high mountains in the vicinity of the *Seven Islands*. The following day we attempted to approach *Bonne* Bay; but were suddenly compelled to reduce our canvas to a main-top-sail and foresail, as the wind blew in tremendous squalls from the land. *Bonne* Bay is surrounded by immense perpendicular rocks, rising to a great height from the sea; and these lofty mountains have in various places been entirely split to their foundations, as if by some violent convulsion of Nature. The wind rushes through the chasms so violently, that the approach to the bay is thereby rendered difficult and dangerous.

We were compelled to haul off to seaward

ward at night-fall, to avoid the sudden squalls from the high land; and the wind continuing foul in the morning, we gave up the intention of entering *Bonne* Bay, and merely despatched a boat thither, to communicate with the inhabitants.

Bonne Bay, in addition to the disadvantages already noticed, is by no means a safe anchorage for vessels of more than fifty or sixty tons burden; as the beach is so steep, that there are twenty-two fathoms water within two cables' length of the shore, and beyond this distance the depth increases to sixty fathoms. About thirty inhabitants* are settled in this bay; but the fishing establishments are not upon a very extensive footing.

Towards

* The whole of the calculations made in this work, respecting the *number* of Settlers in the different bays and harbours, is meant to apply solely to the *summer* residents; as the greater part of the fishermen pass their winters either in *St. John's*, *Guernsey*, *Jersey*, or *England*.

Towards evening, the pinnace returned on board, with the pleasing intelligence, that a *British* frigate had arrived in *L'Anse à Loup* since our departure from thence. In an instant, every sail was set; and two days afterwards we again entered our old rendezvous, where we found at anchor His Majesty's ship *Hyperion*, Captain *Cumby**.

Our hopes had been much excited, under the idea that this ship was intended to relieve us from so unpleasant and dreary a station: consequently, our disappointment was great on finding that she had merely brought a supply of provisions, with an order

* Captain *Cumby* was First Lieutenant of the *Bellerophon* in the memorable battle of *Trafalgar*. After the death of her gallant Captain, Lieutenant *Cumby* continued to fight the ship with steady and determined bravery, which gained him an immediate promotion to the rank of Post Captain. It is a mere act of justice to this gentleman to add, that there is not a better officer in the navy, nor one who is more universally beloved by his inferiors.

order for the *Rosamond* to remain on the coast of *Labrador* until the end of *October*.

The *Hyperion* remained at *L'Anse à Loup* about two days; and during this time the author had the gratification of examining a most curious cabinet, containing nearly two hundred beautiful specimens of the various *mosses* of *Labrador*. They had been collected with great care by the intelligent Surgeon of the *Hyperion:* and should he ever be prevailed upon to give a full description of his cabinet to the world, such a work would prove a valuable addition to the natural history of these *Northern* regions.

A few days after the departure of the *Hyperion*, we again sailed from *L'Anse à Loup*, and bent our course towards *Belle-isle*. Although now the middle of summer, yet the *Ice-bergs* were still very numerous

numerous in the *Straits;* and their beautiful masses presented the most grotesque and extraordinary shapes. The outlines exhibited in the annexed plate were sketched by the author on the tenth day of *August,* when twenty-seven mountains of a similar description were visible from the quarter-deck of the *Rosamond.*

Some of those towering masses of *Ice* were *aground,* in forty fathoms water; so that, if the opinion be correct, which supposes them to swim with *two thirds* of their body immersed, their perpendicular height might be computed at one hundred and twenty feet above the surface of the sea. However, as a proof that no general rule can be accurately laid down on this subject, it will only be necessary to mention the following experiments.

We sawed a large lump of *Ice* into a perfect

perfect cube, and marked its sides with a scale of inches; then dropping it gently into a tub of sea-water, we were rather surprised to observe that it floated with exactly *half its body* immersed! Being determined to ascertain this point beyond the possibility of a doubt, we again selected another mass of *Ice*, upon which we performed precisely the same operation, and found that this last swam only *one fifth* of the cube above the surface of the water. This variety in the weight of *Ice* we found to originate in its different states of *porosity;* the most compact masses sinking, of course, deeper whilst in a floating state. It appeared, therefore, that although many detached masses of *Ice* may float with two thirds of their bulk immersed, yet the safest calculation will always estimate the apparent height of the largest *Ice-bergs* as about equal to their depth: so that those which we observed aground in forty fathoms

fathoms water must have been about two hundred and forty feet in perpendicular height, above the surface of the sea.

There is, probably, no subject less generally understood by nautical men, than that part of their duty which relates to the management of a ship in *Icy* seas. The system of manœuvring to be pursued, in cases of this nature, is totally unlike any other method that can possibly fall under the common experience of a seaman. In forming an idea of the appearance exhibited by the overturn of an *Ice-berg*, the reader need only imagine the effect that would be produced, were a huge mountain to be torn violently from its foundation, and precipitated into the ocean. But the mariner is subjected to less danger from the reeling of these lofty masses, than from the risk of bilging his vessel on the low *drift-ice*, which has been so repeatedly noticed in different parts

parts of this volume. A sea, covered with broken fragments of *Ice,* closely wedged together, and extending as far as the eye can reach, presents an intimidating and, apparently, an insurmountable obstacle to persons who are unacquainted with such situations. The immortal *Cook,* whose abilities as a seaman can never be surpassed, was yet ignorant of this peculiar *tactic:* nor is it to be wondered at, for this is not to be acquired by any theoretical instruction, but must be entirely the result of much practical knowledge. To the total inexperience of *Cook,* in this respect, his failure, in the chief object of his voyage, may be attributed. When he first attempted to penetrate the frozen sea round the *North* of *America,* in the year 1778, he found a vast *glut* of *drift-ice,* blocking up the passage off the *Icy Cape.* A commander better skilled in the art of *Icy* navigation would have instantly pushed his ship into the midst of this

this accumulated mass, and endeavoured to force his way through it, in spite of all impediments: but, to effect this, it would be necessary, for insuring the safety of the vessel, that she should be conducted by some able ICE PILOT. Instead of adopting this method, *Cook* wasted a considerable time in vain endeavours to *circumnavigate* the *ice*: nor did he even confine his exertions to the *doubling* one continent; but, being deceived by the continual shifting of the *Ice*, he frequently wavered in his opinion, sailing backwards and forwards across *Beering's* Straits; at one time intent on passing round the coast of *America* into *Baffin's* Bay; at another, determining to force his way along the *north-eastern* shores of *Asia*, towards the river *Oby* and the *White Sea*.

Cook did not live to make a second trial: and his successor, *Clerke*, was not better qualified to pursue the enterprise. If, therefore,

therefore, those mariners did not succeed in discovering the *north-west* or *north-east* passages between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, might not their failure be rather ascribed to the inexperience of the Commanders, in what may be called *Polar tactics*, than to the alleged impracticability of the undertaking?

Two days after our departure from *L'Anse à Loup*, we came in sight of *Belle-isle*, a high and barren island, lying in the midway between NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR. Several tremendous *Ice-bergs* had grounded beneath its craggy precipices, and formed a striking contrast with the black cliffs behind them. The waves of the *Atlantic* dashed, in furious foam, against its rocks; and Nature appeared to exert unusual efforts to preserve the place from violation of human footsteps. Neither *European* nor *Indian* has ever attempted to settle

settle upon this desolate spot; and having no inducement to visit its shores, we turned our ship's head towards the *north*. In the afternoon, we reached Cape *Charles*, the *south-eastern* extremity of the LABRADOR Peninsula.

Cape *Charles* is in latitude 54°. 13′. N. and longitude 55°. 30′. W. of *Greenwich*. The promontory is rendered remarkable, in consequence of its being the *easternmost* projection of *North America*, and the point from whence the breadth of that vast continent must be determined. A string of small islets lay off its extremity, extending, in a ridge, towards *Belle-isle;* and these are frequently mistaken for the Cape itself. They form the shelter of a small fishing settlement, called Cape *Charles* Harbour; whither we despatched our boat, with an officer, to collect the boat-duty before mentioned. Whilst we were *lying-to*, awaiting

awaiting the return of the boat, a schooner bore down along the *eastern* side of *Labrador,* to which we gave chace. She proved, on examination, to be a vessel belonging to Mr. *Pinson,* of *L'Anse à Loup,* returning from *Sandwich* Bay, where that gentleman possessed a *fishery* yielding annually two hundred *tierces* of *salmon.* These fish are caught without much difficulty, by means of a net extended quite across the river, into which the *salmon* run their heads, when going up the stream to deposit their spawn. Great care is taken by the fishermen to keep the net free from weeds or obstructions of any kind. When caught, the *salmon* is split or opened down the back; then salted in tubs, where it remains for the space of a fortnight, with large masses of stone on the top, to keep the fish beneath the surface of the pickle. At the expiration of that time, it is re-salted into *tierces,* which contain each

two

two hundred pounds of fish, exclusive of pickle and salt. The *Mediterranean* ports are the greatest mart for the sale of salted *salmon,* and the average price is from sixty to seventy shillings per *tierce.*

A few years ago, when the *fisheries* were unusually depressed, there was a bounty of three shillings per *quintal* allowed* on all pickled or salted *salmon,* or dried *cod*-fish, imported into any of the ports of *Great Britain, Guernsey,* or *Jersey.* This act, however, has since been repealed by Parliament.

When our boat returned, we hoisted her on board, and made sail back again, towards *Château* Bay and *Pitt's* Harbour; and we arrived there the next morning by day-light.

Cape *Château,* lying off the entrance of a bay

* Act 47 *Geo.* III. chap. 24.

a bay bearing the same name, is so called from the remarkable resemblance which it bears to an antient castle. Its turrets, arches, loop-holes, and keeps, are beautifully represented by a series of *basaltic* columns. The author could only regret his inability to delineate this singular head-land; for it certainly presented as fine a subject for the pencil of an artist, as the celebrated *Cave of Fingal*, or the no less noted *Giant's Causeway* in *Ireland*.

In addition to these *basaltic* phænomena, the shores of LABRADOR abound with thin, pellucid, shining laminæ, of a *talc*-like substance, which are probably fragments of *mica*. Of these the author collected a few specimens, and brought them with him to *England*.

The famous LARRADOR *feldspar* is now well known among mineralogists. It will,

 therefore,

therefore, only be necessary to observe, that this stone is not found near the *European* settlements on the *southern* parts of the peninsula, but is generally met with in the vicinity of the *Moravian* Missionary habitations to the *northward* of *Sandwich* Bay.

Pitt's Harbour is a deep gulf, surrounded by the loftiest mountains, which render it liable to violent gusts and squalls of wind. A single rock, lying midway between the two sides of the port, presents the only danger of any consequence, in entering the place.

At *Henley* Harbour, near *Château* Bay, there are a few small establishments for carrying on the *cod-fishery* in summer; but few, if any, of the *Europeans* remain there during the winter: at the close of the season they return to *St. John's*.

After

After collecting the *tax,* we sailed from hence, on our return to *L'Anse à Loup.* During the night, we were much annoyed by the continual interruption of *Ice-bergs;* and towards morning, believing that we were near the entrance of our destined port, we *lay to,* to wait for day-break. This had nearly proved the destruction of the *Rosamond;* for at the earliest dawn we perceived the rocks off the *western* point of *Forteau,* within a very short distance a-head. We immediately tacked about, and in the forenoon anchored in *Forteau* Bay.

Upon trying the current, in a boat, we were surprised to find that it ran, in one place, three miles an hour towards the *west;* and, in another, two miles in an *easterly* direction. Indeed, the uncertainty and velocity of the currents in the *Straits* of *Belle-isle* render the channel very

unsafe for nightly navigation: and, from this time forward, we generally preferred anchoring every evening, to avoid running any further risk of being shipwrecked in the dark. There is good anchorage all over the *Straits*, in about thirty or forty fathoms water.

Whilst we remained at *Forteau*, and were busily employed, completing our stock of water, a warlike ship appeared in the *Straits*, sailing away *eastward*, towards the *Atlantic*. Our Captain suspecting her to be the *Hornet*, an *American* sloop of war, we immediately weighed anchor, and gave chase, crowding every *stitch of canvas*, and running ten miles an hour, with our *royals* set. In six hours we had approached near enough to distinguish that the supposed *American* was not a vessel of war, but, most probably, a heavy-laden timber-ship from *Quebec*, bound to some port in *Scotland*.

Scotland. As evening drew on, we came close up with *Belle-isle;* and the wind at that moment taking us *flat aback,* in a contrary direction, we gave up the pursuit, and returned to the *westward* again, as speedily as we had sailed away. The next morning the *Rosamond* anchored at *L'Anse à Loup;* and the fishermen of that place expressed their astonishment at our having sailed eighty miles to the *eastward,* and returned over the same ground, in the short space of seventeen hours.

After remaining for a short time at our old quarters, we again quitted *L'Anse à Loup,* and proceeded to *Port Saunders,* a noble harbour, forming one arm of *Ingornachoix* Bay, on the *north-west* coast of NEWFOUNDLAND.

CHAP. VII.

PORT SAUNDERS.

Ingornachoix *Bay*—*Port* Saunders—*Solitude of the Forests* —Red Indians *of* NEWFOUNDLAND, *the Aborigines of the Country*—*Attempts to civilize the* Red Indians.

ACCORDING to the accurate surveys of the immortal circumnavigator COOK*, the entrance to the great bay of *Ingornachoix* lies in latitude 50°. 38′ N. and longitude 57°. 20′ W. of *Greenwich*. Although totally uninhabited, this is nevertheless one of the noblest harbours in the world. The entrance is narrow,

* "In *April* 1764, Captain *James Cook* was appointed Marine-surveyor of *Newfoundland* and *Labrador*; and of the satisfactory manner in which he executed this office, the Charts which he afterwards published afford ample evidence."—*Continuation of Campbell's Naval History of Great Britain, vol.* IV. *p.* 272.

narrow, but without danger of any kind. After passing the channel, the port branches off into two separate arms or divisions; but that on the left hand, called *Port Saunders*, is best calculated for the reception of large vessels, in consequence of its superior depth of water. It is not, however, prudent to sail too far, before bringing to an anchor; as there is a solitary rock lying in the centre of the harbour, about equidistant between the entrance and the head of the port. Ninety or a hundred sail of shipping might here lie sheltered from every wind. The tides rise and fall about ten feet; and it is high water at the full and change of the moon precisely at one o'clock. The anchorage is completely landlocked by high hills, covered with an abundance of excellent fire-wood; and there are many limpid streams of the purest fresh water.

Wild-

Wild-ducks and *geese* abound in the numerous marshes and ponds of the interior; and in the marshes, by the sea-side, there grows an inexhaustible quantity of *berries*, which are delicious when made into puddings or tarts. In addition to this, the shores are covered with *muscles*, *limpets*, and *lobsters:* the latter fish lay in holes among the weeds, a few feet beneath low-water-mark; so that, when the tide is out, they may be hooked-up by hundreds.

It is one of the most surprising and unaccountable circumstances attending the history of the *cod-fish*, that although found in myriads around all the other coasts of NEWFOUNDLAND, yet it is never known to visit the *north-western* parts of the island. It is owing to this circumstance that *Ingornachoix* Bay has never been inhabited by *Europeans*, except it be now and then by a few stragglers, who go thither to catch

salmon

salmon or *rein-deer*. Our officers went several times, upon shooting excursions, through whole forests, rotting with age; where the silence of nature was only interrupted by the echo of their own footsteps, or the accidental falling of branches that crumbled into dust as they advanced.

We erected a signal-post, as usual, to give timely notice of the appearance of any strange vessel: and as the *Rosamond* lay at Port *Saunders* for a length of time, to be painted and refitted, a description of the original inhabitants of NEWFOUNDLAND may be here introduced: this extraordinary people constituting a peculiar race, distinct from the *Micmacs*, the *Mountaineers*, and the *Esquimaux*. They are called RED INDIANS.

The *Red Indians*, or *Aborigines* of NEWFOUNDLAND, are now so very rarely to be met with,

with, that their genuine character is perhaps only to be deduced from the accounts which were published respecting them by the first persons who visited this country. *Whitbourne*, in his *Discourse and Discovery of Newfoundland*, says, "The naturall In-"habitants of the Countrey, as they are but "few in number; so are they something "rude and sauage people; hauing neither "knowledge of God, nor liuing vnder any "kinde of ciuill gouernement. In their "habits, customes, and manners, they re-"semble the *Indians* of the Continent, from "whence (I suppose) they come; they liue "altogether in the *North* and *West* part of "the Countrey, which is seldome frequented "by the *English:* But the *French* and *Bis-"caines* (who resort thither yeerely for the "Whale-fishing, and also for the Cod-fish) "report them to be an ingenious and trac-"table people (being well vsed:) they are "ready to assist them with great labour

"and

" and patience, in the killing, cutting and " boyling of Whales; and making the " Traineoyle, without expectation of other " reward, than a little bread, or some such " small hire*."

In another part of *Whitbourne*'s account, he accuses the *Red Indians* of dishonesty:

" Many of them secretly euery yeere, " come into *Trinity* Bay and Harbour, in " the night-time, purposely to steale Sailes, " Lines, Hatchets, Hookes, Kniues, and " such like.†"

But still the same author was of opinion, that by gentle treatment and a conciliatory policy, the *Natives* might have been civilized, and even brought over to the Christian faith.

" And

* *Whitbourne*'s Discovrse and Discovery of *Newfoundland*, page 2.

† Ibid. p. 4.

"And this Bay (*Flowers*) is not three "*English* miles ouer land from *Trinity* Bay "in some places; which people, if they "might be reduced to the knowledge of "the true Trinity indeed, no doubt but it "would be a most sweete and acceptable "sacrifice to God,——The taske thereof "would proue easie, if it were but well "begun, and constantly seconded by indus- "trious spirits: and no doubt but God "himselfe would set his hand to reare vp "and aduance so noble, so pious, and so "Christian a building.*"

In another part, he recommends that a settlement should be made in *Trepassy* Bay, "by reason those sauage people are so "neere; who being *politikely* and *gently* "*handled*, much good might bee wrought "vpon them: for I haue had apparent "proofes

* *Whitbourne*'s Discovrse and Discovery of *Newfoundland*, pages 4 & 5.

" proofes of their ingenuous and subtile " dispositions, and that they are a people " full of quicke and liuly apprehensions.†"

A set of ignorant and barbarous fishermen were not capable of profiting by this advice, nor of foreseeing the result of an opposite line of conduct. Accordingly we find, that even during *Whitbourne*'s lifetime, they had already begun to plunder and misuse the *Natives*. To prove this, the author is compelled to make rather a copious extract; but as it throws considerable light on the state in which the original inhabitants of NEWFOUNDLAND were found, by the earliest visitors of the country, it may probably not be without its value, in the estimation of the curious reader.

" Now it may be well vnderstood, there " is

† Ibid. page 5.

" is great hope that those parts of the
" world will yeeld seuerall commodities of
" exceeding worth, whereon diuers good
" imployments may bee made for great
" numbers of his Maiesties Subjects. For
" it is well knowne, that the *Natiues* of
" those parts haue great store of red *Okar*,
" wherewith they vse to colour their bodies,
" Bowes, Arrowes and Cannowes, in a
" painting manner; which Cannowes are
" their Boats, that they vse to go to Sea in,
" which are built in shape like the Wher-
" ries on the Riuer of *Thames*, with small
" timbers, no thicker nor broader than
" hoopes; and instead of boords, they vse
" the barkes of Birch trees, which they
" sew very artificially and close together,
" and then ouerlay the seames with Tur-
" pentine, as Pitch is vsed on the seames of
" Ships, and Boats: And in like manner
" they vse to sew the barkes of Spruise and
" Firre trees, round and deepe in proportion,

" like

" like a Brasse Kettle, to boyle their
" meat in, as it hath been well approoued
" by diuers men; but most especially to
" my certaine knowledge, by three Mari-
" ners of a Ship of *Tapson*, in the County
" of *Deuon*; which Ship riding there at
" Anchor neere by mee, at the Harbour
" called *Hearts-ease*, on the *North* side of
" *Trinity* Bay, and being robbed in the
" night, by the *Sauages*, of their apparell,
" and diuers other prouisions, did the next
" day seeke after them, and happened to
" come suddenly where they had set vp
" three Tents, and were feasting, hauing
" three such Cannowes by them, and three
" Pots made of such rinds of trees, standing
" each of them on three stones, boyling,
" with twelue Fowles in each of them,
" euery Fowle as big as a widgeon, and
" some so big as a Ducke: they had also
" many such Pots so sewed, and fashioned
" like leather Buckets, that are vsed for

" quenching

" quenching of fire, and those were full of
" the yolkes of Egges, that they had taken
" and boyled hard, and so dryed small as it
" had been powder-Sugar, which the
" Sauages vsed in their Broth, as Sugar is
" often vsed in some meates. They had
" great store of the skins of Deere, Beauers,
" Beares, Seales, Otters, and diuers other
" fine skins, which were excellent well
" dressed; as also great store of seuerall
" sorts of flesh dryed, and by shooting off
" a Musquet towards them, they all ran
" away naked, without any apparell, but
" onely some of them had their hats on
" their heads, which were made of Seale
" skinnes, in fashion like our hats, sewed
" handsomely, with narrow bands about
" them, set round with fine white shels.
" All their three Cannowes, their flesh,
" skins, yolkes of Egges, Targets, Bowes
" and Arrowes, and much fine Okar, and
" diuers other things *they tooke and brought*
" *away*

" *away*, and shared it among those that " tooke it; and *they brought to mee the best* " *Cannow, Bowes and Arrowes*, and diuers " of their skins, and many other artificiall " things worth the noting, which may seeme " much to inuite vs to indeuour to finde " out some other good trades with them.*"

From the foregoing it is evident, that notwithstanding all he had said respecting the propriety of treating the *Red Indians* with gentleness, yet Captain *Whitbourne* hesitated not to become an accessory to their persecution. For if he were not actually present, when the inhuman mariners deprived the timorous *Natives* of their food, raiment, furniture, and utensils; he has expressed no repugnance against that cruel proceeding; nor does he appear to have

* Conclusion to *Whitbourne's Discourse and Discovery of Newfoundland.*

have felt any reluctance towards accepting "*the best Cannow, Bowes and Arrowes*," &c. Still it is singular, that he should have related this atrocious circumstance; as a moment's reflection must have taught him, that Posterity would inevitably judge "the Receiver, to be as guilty as the "Thief."

From this time forward, *Europeans* were accustomed to treat the *Red Indians* with great cruelty, by shooting at, and hunting them from their peaceful habitations. It has been pretended, that they were induced to adopt this line of conduct, in the first instance, in consequence of some manifest disposition to violence and dishonesty, on the part of the *Natives*. Conciliatory measures might not have been attended with success in the beginning of their intercourse; yet a persevering system of benevolence, kindness, and good-will,

would

would not have failed, in the end, to impress the wild inhabitants with a favourable opinion of their new acquaintance. At all events, no provocation whatsoever can justify the more enlightened *European*, in the manifestation of a ferocious barbarity, that would disgrace the most ignorant and blood-thirsty *Indian*.

Such a reprehensible system was followed by its usual consequences. The *Natives* imbibed an implacable and eternal enmity against their inhuman visitors. Retiring into the interior of the island, they have since seized every opportunity of attacking and destroying *Europeans*. Their hatred of the "*white people*," contracted so long ago, still continues unabated. It appears to be the most sacred bequest that a dying *Indian* makes to his children: this hatred, universally cherished among them, is care-

fully transmitted from father to son, throughout their generations*.

Whitbourne has said, that the *French* and *Biscayans* found the *Red Indians*, to be of a mild and tractable disposition. If this be true, their character has evidently been altered for the worse, by their short intercourse with the original settlers in NEWFOUNDLAND. At present, they bear a strong resemblance in their manners, to the treacherous *Boshmens*, inhabiting the *Southern* parts of *Africa*. The *Red Indians* study the art of concealment so effectually, that, although often *heard*, they are seldom *seen*. An old fisherman of *St. George's* Bay informed us, that himself and a few others

* "No duration can put an end to their (the *Indians'*) "revenge; it is often a legacy transferred from generation to "generation, and left as a bequest from father to son, until an "opportunity offers of taking ample satisfaction."—*Extract from Major Rogers's Account of North America.*

others had once approached a party of this people, near enough to distinguish their voices; but upon hastening to the spot whence the sounds proceeded, the *Natives* were gone, their fire extinguished, the embers scattered in the woods, and dry leaves strewed over the ashes! The *Red Indians* are not a numerous race of people; and they are rarely to be observed, excepting in the *North*, *North-eastern*, and *North-western* parts of NEWFOUNDLAND. They inhabit chiefly the interior of the country, in the vicinity of *Fogo*, *Twillingate*, and *White Bay*. Sometimes, however, they make excursions towards the maritime parts, for purposes of murder and pillage; and upon such occasions they are wonderfully expert in concealing their tracks from pursuit. Fortunately for the *European* settlers, they have not acquired the use of fire-arms, and will never approach near to any person who is armed with a musket.

Many

Many attempts have been recently made to open a friendly intercourse with the irascible *Red Indians* of NEWFOUNDLAND; and the Government lately offered a reward of fifty pounds to any person who should bring one of them *alive* to *St. John's*. At length, a fisherman contrived to seize a young female, who was paddling in her canoe to procure birds' eggs from an islet at a short distance from the main land. This woman was immediately conveyed to the capital, the fisherman received his reward, and the captive was treated with great humanity, kindness, and attention. The principal merchants and ladies of *St. John's* vied with each other in cultivating her good graces; and presents poured in upon her from all quarters. She seemed to be tolerably contented with her situation, when surrounded by a company of female visitors; but became outrageous if any man approached, excepting the person who deprived

deprived her of her liberty: to him she was ever gentle and affectionate. Her body and hair were stained of a *red* colour, as it is supposed, by juice extracted from the alder-tree; and from the custom of dyeing the skin and hair, the nation has acquired the appellation of *Red Indians**.

When this singular female had remained long enough at *St. John's* to be made perfectly sensible of the kindness and good intentions of the *Europeans*, the fisherman who brought her thither was desired to reconduct her to the spot whence he had formerly

* Both antient and savage nations have manifested this propensity to paint or dye their persons. The image of *Jupiter* preserved in the *Capitol* at *Rome* was painted with *minium*; and a *Roman* Emperor, wishing to assume a *godlike* aspect, when entering the city in triumph, ornamented his skin in imitation of the *God*. The image of the *Sphinx* in *Egypt* is painted *red*. The antient *Britons* painted their bodies of various colours; and Captain *Cook* relates, that the natives of *Van Diemen's Land* had their hair and beards anointed with a *red* ointment.

formerly dragged her away. The sequel of the story is so horrid, that it would scarcely have been credited, had not the author received it upon the testimony of many respectable persons in different parts of NEWFOUNDLAND; so that he was finally induced, however unwillingly, to give it his full and entire belief. The villain who had deprived this poor *savage* of her relations, her friends, and her liberty, conceived, and actually carried into execution, the diabolical scheme of murdering her on her voyage back, in order to possess himself of the baubles which had been presented to her by the inhabitants of *St. John's*. By this barbarous act, the assassin obtained articles to the value nearly of a hundred pounds; and it is said, that he has since retired to *England*, to *enjoy* the plunder of his unfortunate victim. The sufferings of the damned are hardly less enviable than such *enjoyment!*

Some

Some time after this event took place, Lieutenant *Buchan*, commanding his Majesty's schooner *Adonis*, was ordered to pass a winter at the river of *Exploits*, in the *north-east* part of NEWFOUNDLAND; for the express purpose of opening a friendly intercourse with the *Red Indians*. This officer succeeded in obtaining an interview with one of their tribes; and from their peaceable deportment, he was induced to leave two of his marines in their company; at the same time taking two of the *Indians* on board with him, as hostages for their countrymen's good faith. A trivial circumstance delayed the return of the Lieutenant beyond the time he had promised; and the *natives* were so much incensed at his supposed treachery, that they chopped off the heads of the two *Englishmen* in their possession, and retired into the woods whence they came. The *Indian* hostages were re-accompanied to the shore by

Lieutenant

Lieutenant *Buchan*; but they had sufficient cunning to guess how matters must have gone on during their absence; immediately, therefore, upon being landed, they made their escape into the forest, to join in the general exultation of their tribe at this massacre of two detested *Whites*. On searching near the place, where the unfortunate marines had been left, their ghastly heads were found lying on the moss; but the *Indians* had carried off the bodies.

Thus ended fatally the only intercourse that Lieutenant *Buchan*, with much fatigue and trouble, had been able to obtain; and every prospect of a reconciliation with the *Red Indians* appears now to be entirely at an end. Such an event is, however, much hoped for, by many; because, although the *Natives* are not numerous, yet they are sufficiently formidable to keep the

northern

northern settlers in continual apprehension and fear*.

* The author humbly presumes that he has redeemed his pledge, given in *Chap.* II. *p.* 51; and that he has convinced the reader of the falsity of the *Abbé Raynal*'s assertion, that "No savages have ever been seen there *(Newfoundland)*, "except some *Esquimaux* who come over from the continent "in the hunting season." *Hist. of the East and West Indies, Vol.* VII. *Book* XVII. *p.* 191.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

FROM PORT SAUNDERS TO ST. JOHN'S.

Sail from Port Saunders—*Anchor at* L'Anse à Loup—*Account of an* Esquimaux *Tribe—Horrid Sacrifice—Story of a* Canadian *Lady—Seal-fishery—Final departure from* LABRADOR—*Nautical observations—Mount* Ioli—Anticosti—*Anchor at* St. John's.

WE had not been more than ten days in Port *Saunders*, when our watch at the signal-post gave notice, that a strange vessel approached the coast. We immediately weighed anchor, and sailed out of the harbour; when the stranger appeared under a press of sail, steering in towards the port. The *Rosamond* being a brisk sailer, soon overtook the other ship; but our hopes of a prize were greatly disappointed; the stranger

stranger proving to be merely a *Scotch* timber-ship from *Quebec*. It was now so dark, that we could not venture to re-enter the snug port that we had quitted; and the *Rosamond* therefore lay at anchor all night in the bay, outside of the harbour; which affords a tolerable safe anchorage in fine weather.

At the earliest dawn of day, we weighed anchor, and passed round Cape *Rich*. Towards night-fall, we again came to an anchor in the bay of *L'Anse à Loup*.

There are many good harbours in the *north-west* parts of NEWFOUNDLAND; such as, Bay *St. Barbe's*, *St. Margaret's* Bay, *Old Ferrolle*, *Port aux Choix*, and the *Ingornachoix* Bay, already described; but there are no *fisheries* established in either of those places, owing to the scarcity of *cod* on the coast.

A tribe

A tribe of *Esquimaux Indians* had been at *L'Anse à Loup* since the departure of the *Rosamond*. They had encamped within half a mile of Mr. *Pinson's* house, and there were in all about fifty of them. During their stay in that place, some of the fishermen were present at the funeral of an *Indian* woman; when, shocking to relate, the *savages stoned her female infant to death, and interred it in the same grave with its deceased mother.* This horrid fact was attested in the most solemn and convincing manner, by at least twenty people who had witnessed the transaction. The *Europeans* who were present endeavoured, by the most earnest supplications, to save the life of the innocent babe; but the *Indians* laughed at their scruples, and proceeded in their brutal sacrifice with shouts of demoniac merriment.

. . . . .

It has been a custom of many barbarous nations

nations to destroy their children, under peculiar circumstances. *Robertson* has treated this matter at large, in his *History of America*. "When twins are born, one of "them commonly is abandoned, because "the mother is not equal to the task of "rearing both. When a mother dies while "she is nursing a child, all hope of pre"serving its life fails, and *it is buried toge*"*ther with her in the same grave**." The natives of LABRADOR are not totally deficient in affection towards their offspring; but it is impossible for a widower to rear a suckling infant himself; and no female belonging to the tribe can undertake the charge of a supernumerary child. This difficulty first induced the custom of destroying them; and the practice, however shocking it may appear, is not wholly unprecedented in the history of more oriental nations. Deformed children were exposed

to

* *Robertson's* History of *America*, Vol. II. p. 41. Book IV.

to the fury of wild beasts by some of the antient *Grecians;* and a *Lacedæmonian* mother hesitated not to sacrifice her own son, if, by any symptom of cowardice, he was known to have disgraced his country.

We were much surprised, on visiting our good friend Mr. *Pinson,* to find a handsome female seated at the head of his table. The sight of a white woman was now a real gratification to us all; and our officers were anxiously desirous to discover by what means she had been thrown upon the savage territory of LABRADOR. As the story of this lady's misfortunes reflected additional credit on the philanthropic character of the worthy merchant, and gave us a faint notion of the inclemency of a NEWFOUNDLAND winter, perhaps the insertion of it in this place will not be deemed reprehensible by the reader.

The

The daughter of a respectable *Canadian* had married early in life to a Mr. *E*...., the master of an *English Quebec* trading-vessel. In the beginning of *December* 1812, the ship of her husband quitted the country in which she was born, on its return with a cargo to EUROPE: but during its voyage thither, it was wrecked near *Bonne Bay*, in the island of NEWFOUNDLAND. The night was dreadfully tempestuous; and with great danger and difficulty, Mrs. *E*.... reached the shore, in an open boat, scarcely capable of containing four persons. At length, however, the whole of the crew was safely landed; and immediately collected whatever could be saved from the floating wreck, and placed the articles under a sail-cloth tent.

The winter had now set in with such rigour, that it was totally impossible to travel far in search of *fishing* settlements.

Under these afflicting circumstances, it was resolved to erect a hut for the officers, and another for the crew; by which means they hoped to secure themselves against the piercing cold of the climate. It was in this miserable state that the youthful and delicate Mrs. *E*. . . . lingered through a long and dismal winter, upon a rocky coast blocked up with an ocean of frozen fragments; and surrounded, on the land side, by snowy mountains and icy valleys. Both the lady and her companions were compelled to cut off their hair entirely; which was so strung with icicles, that it became exceedingly painful and troublesome. To add to the sufferings of this unfortunate lady, she found herself pregnant. The crew mutinied; swearing, with dreadful imprecations, that they would take away the life of her husband, because he had prudently refused them an immoderate share of the brandy that had been saved from

from the wreck: and the barbarous wretches even threw fire-brands into the hut where she lay, although their whole stock of gunpowder was stored within its walls! At length, the much wished-for season of Spring made its appearance; but instead of comfort, it brought additional misery to the amiable and lovely Mrs. *E*. . . . Hitherto the affectionate attentions of her fond husband had been the solace and support of her life; but in the attempt to land a few casks of salted beef from the remains of the wreck, the boat overset, and he was drowned! Left thus destitute and friendless, among a gang of desperate miscreants, she had still courage to resist their brutal attempts upon her virtue: and, as the Summer advanced, she followed them barefooted through the woods, until they reached the *fishing* settlements in *Bonne* Bay. She was here but badly provided with food or necessaries; and was therefore

easily prevailed on to go in a small vessel bound for *Forteau*, where she hoped to procure a passage for *Quebec*. On her arrival at *Forteau*, she took up her abode at the house of a *Guernsey* fisherman. Misfortune still attended her footsteps; and she was compelled to leave the house of this monster, to avoid his odious solicitations. At this moment, Mr. *Pinson* generously offered her that asylum, which her hardships, her sufferings, and, above all, her pregnancy, demanded. By the earliest opportunity, the good merchant procured her a passage back to her parents: he also defrayed the passage-money from his own purse, and supplied her plentifully with necessaries for the voyage.

We afterwards heard that Mrs. *E*.... reached *Quebec* in safety; and shortly after gave birth to a male infant, who still lives to comfort her for the loss of her ill-fated husband,

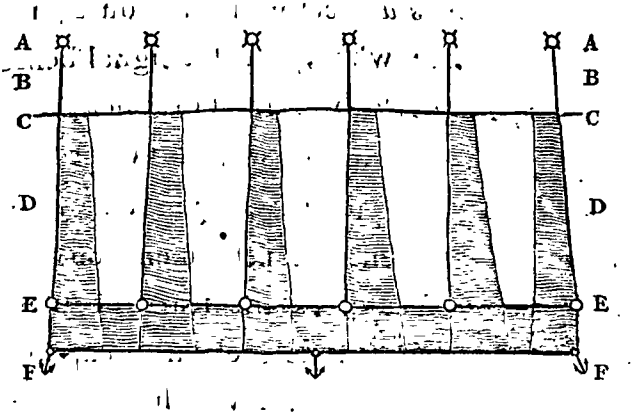
husband, and, it is to be hoped, will prove hereafter the noblest recompence for all her sufferings.

During the time we remained at *L'Anse à Loup*; the people on shore were busily employed in making preparations for the winter *seal-fishery*. As this proved eventually to be our last visit to the coast of LABRADOR, it will not be an improper place to introduce an account of the method pursued by the *seal* fishermen for entrapping those shy and wary animals.

There are two modes of catching the *seals*: the one is, by mooring strong nets at the bottom of the sea; and the other, by constructing what is called "*a frame of nets*," near the shore of some small bay. The latter is the most-approved method, and may be easily explained by a figure.

Suppose

Suppose AA to be small capstans fixed on shore for the purpose of heaving the nets up and down, as occasion may require.



BB, the hawsers leading from the capstans to the nets. CC, the water's edge. DD, strong nets running from the beach into the sea: they reach from the bottom to the surface of the water. EE, large casks, used to buoy up the outer or great net, which runs parallel to the shore. FF, small anchors, confining the outer net close down to the ground. The hawsers from the capstans being slackened, the smaller nets DD sink

to

to the bottom, whilst the outer net remains fixed in its perpendicular position. Great exertions are then made by the fishermen to drive the *seals* between the outer net and the beach; when, on a due signal being given, the people on the shore heave up the small nets DD, by which means the animals become inclosed upon all sides. From this moment the fishermen consider their capture sure, as the fears of these creatures drive them to seek an escape by the bottom of the nets, which is totally impossible; and they have not sagacity or courage enough to leap boldly over the top.

When there are a great many *seals* in sight, the fishermen fire off muskets, to make them, as they express it, "strike into the nets." When the *seals* are skinned, the fat is cut up into small pieces, and then melted into oil in large iron

iron boilers. This oil, in burning, is not so offensive to the smell as that produced from whale blubber. The price of the *seal* oil varies according to the produce of the *Greenland* and *South-Sea* whale *fisheries*: the average price is from 40*l.* to 50*l.* per ton.

The *seal* skins are exported to *England*; where the furriers draw out the hairs, and leave only the soft down which is found underneath them. It is in this state that they are used by the ladies, as trimmings for pelisses; and, of late years, the most beautiful travelling caps have been fabricated from the same materials.

During the whole of the summer season, the *European* settlers in LABRADOR are employed in the *cod-fishery*. Their winters are occupied in catching *seals*, obtaining furs, making casks, building boats, constructing

structing *fish-flakes*, and in completing every thing requisite for carrying on the summer *fisheries*.

As it was now drawing towards the end of *October*, our Captain determined to take a short cruize in the Gulf of *St. Lawrence;* and afterwards to make another visit to *L'Anse à Loup*, previous to our final departure from the *Straits* of *Belle-isle*. Accordingly, we again left the coast of LABRADOR: to which we were never afterwards destined to return. Previous to our sailing, we had received a *rein-deer*, as a present from the inhabitants of *Forteau* Bay: the venison proved an excellent repast to us, who had so long subsisted upon salt beef and *cod*-fish. Wild deer are by no means plentiful in NEWFOUNDLAND; and are seldom caught, except in the *northern* parts of the island.

We

We will close this description of the *Labrador* coast, with a few remarks on the navigation of the *Straits* of *Belle-isle*. Ships intending to pass through this channel to the *eastward*, should be cautious to keep near the NEWFOUNDLAND shore, until they come abreast of *L'Anse à Loup*; when they ought immediately to cross over the *Straits*, and, during the remaining part of the passage, sail close along the *northern* shore. The necessity of these precautions will appear, from a consideration of the following facts: First, there is a very strong *northern* in-draught into the Bay of *Esquimaux*; which is likely to set a vessel upon *Green* Island, if she do not avoid the danger, by keeping over on the opposite side of the *Straits*. Secondly, after getting abreast of *L'Anse à Loup*, the *southern* shore becomes low and shoal; and there is always a strong current setting over towards Cape *Norman*, occasioned by an in-draught

in-draught into *Pistolette*, a deep gulf directly opposite to Cape *Château*.

In sailing out of the *Straits*, towards the *Atlantic*, the passage between *Belle-isle* and NEWFOUNDLAND is by far the most preferable. The other channel, between Cape *Charles* and *Belle-isle*, is generally choked by numerous *Ice-bergs*, which are driven, by the *southerly* current, round the *south-eastern* extremity of LABRADOR.

It was in this bleak and desolate country that *Cook* first displayed those talents as a marine surveyor, which gained for him the patronage of Sir *Hugh Palliser*, and drew the public attention towards his extraordinary abilities. His charts of NEWFOUNDLAND and the *Straits* of *Belle-isle* are, to this day, a convincing proof of the fidelity, genius, and discernment, that characterize

all

all the nautical observations of that illustrious circumnavigator.

From *L'Anse à Loup* we pursued our course towards the *west;* and on the day subsequent to our departure, we obtained sight of Mount *Joli,* a remarkable elevation on the LABRADOR coast, which has before been mentioned, as separating the government of NEWFOUNDLAND from that of *Canada.*

A day or two afterwards, we saw the island of *Anticosti,* extending in a blue ridge along the *western* horizon; and giving, by its flat appearance, an adequate idea of those extensive swamps and morasses that have rendered the island uninhabitable. In consequence of its lying directly in the mouth of the river *St. Lawrence,* and the coast being surrounded by very deep water,

Anticosti

Anticosti presents a formidable danger to vessels trading with *Quebec;* for a ship may be stranded upon the beach, before her soundings give the least notice of its proximity. The *Canadian* Government supports one or two poor families who reside at *Anticosti* for the humane purpose of relieving shipwrecked mariners; and these are the only inhabitants on the island*.

We had been cruizing about a week in the Gulf of *St. Lawrence,* when we attempted to re-visit our old station at *L'Anse à Loup;* but a most violent gale of wind from the *north-east* drove us back again towards the dangerous shores of *Anticosti.* We persevered in our efforts, and buffetted against the fury of the tempest for three days successively;

* His Majesty's ship *Leopard,* of 50 guns, commanded by Captain *Crofton,* was wrecked upon the island of *Anticosti,* in the year 1814.

successively; but the wind seeming rather to increase than diminish, Captain *Campbell* was compelled to relinquish his original design; and to the great joy of every person on board, we bore away towards the *south*; bidding a last adieu to those scenes which *Falconer* has so forcibly characterized:

> " From regions where Peruvian billows roar,
> " To the bleak coasts of savage LABRADOR."

After a boisterous passage round the *southern* parts of NEWFOUNDLAND, we arrived at *St. John's* in the beginning of *November*, without meeting with any incident worthy of recital.

CHAP. IX.

FROM ST. JOHN'S, TO CAPELIN BAY, AND BAY OF BULLS.

State of the Capital—Vigilance of the Governor—Shipwreck of his Majesty's Ship Tweed—*Sail from* St. John's—*Anchor at* Capelin *Bay—Distresses of the* Irish *Emigrants—Excursion from* Capelin *Bay to* Ferryland—*Surrogate Court—First Settlement of* Ferryland—*Present State of* Ferryland—*Sail from* Capelin *Bay—Anchor at Bay of* Bulls—*Description of the place—Return to* St. John's.

WE found the inhabitants of the capital busily employed in shipping off their merchandize for different ports of *Europe;* and many of them were also arranging matters for their own return to *Great Britain.* Small vessels were hourly arriving from the outports of NEWFOUNDLAND, bringing crowds

crowds of people, who came either to reside at *St. John's* during the winter, or to sail in the autumnal convoys for *England*. The *fisheries* had now ceased; and numbers of the low *Irishmen* were nightly parading the streets, in a state of intoxication. Amongst the more wealthy classes, balls, dinners, and entertainments, had succeeded to the incessant and uninterrupted industry which occupied every person, without distinction, during the bustle of the *fishing* season.

Shortly after the arrival of the *Rosamond* at *St. John's*, she was dignified by the reception of the Admiral's flag. Sir *Richard Keats* suffered no person under his command to suppose that he held a sinecure situation. The utmost activity pervaded every branch of the public departments. Ships of war were continually anchoring and sailing from the harbour; and the coasts of NEWFOUNDLAND were scoured from

north

north to *south* by the most vigilant cruizers. The only sure way to the Admiral's favour was by evincing the same indefatigable exertion, which he manifested himself upon every occasion. The naval Guard Officer was directed to obtain the most minute information from every vessel arriving at *St. John's;* and to communicate the result of his inquiries, *in person,* to the Governor. In cases of reports concerning *British* convoys being on their way towards NEWFOUNDLAND, or that the enemy's privateers had been observed hovering near the coasts, it was positively ordered, that the Guard Officer should immediately make the same known to the Admiral, without regard to any hour or time in which such intelligence might be obtained. In the execution of his duty, the author once had occasion to wait on Sir *Richard Keats* with intelligence of this description. The Admiral had retired to bed; but in five minutes he

entered the audience-chamber, wrapped in a flannel dressing-gown. With the most patient scrutiny, he made himself acquainted with every minute particular; and in less than half an hour afterwards, a frigate sailed out of the harbour, in pursuit of the supposed *American* corsair.

About a fortnight after our hoisting the Admiral's flag, a fisherman came overland from a small place to the *southward* of *St. John's*, called *Petty* Harbour, and reported that his Majesty's ship *Tweed*, Captain *Mathers*, had been wrecked upon the coast. This disagreeable intelligence proved to be correct; and the survivors shortly afterwards reached the capital in a dreadfully lacerated state. The following is a brief statement of the melancholy catastrophe.

The *Tweed*, of twenty guns, sailed from *Cork*

Cork with a large convoy bound for *Newfoundland*. Having, according to their reckoning, reached within forty or fifty miles of the island, the fleet *hove to*, awaiting the approach of day-light, as the night proved dark and tempestuous. At midnight, the *Tweed* was suddenly encompassed by terrific breakers; and before the least exertion could be made, the ship struck with violence against the face of a perpendicular precipice. A mariner's presence of mind acquires fresh energy from the actual appearance of danger. By taking advantage of the moment when a mountainous billow lifted the vessel to a level with the summit of the rock, the First Lieutenant and one of the seamen sprang to the shore, with a small rope in their hands. It was to the amazing activity and foresight displayed by these men, that the other survivors owed their preservation. A strong hawser was conveyed to those on the

eminence, by which forty of the crew contrived to ascend. Numbers perished in attempting to follow the example of their more fortunate shipmates. Irresistible billows now rolled incessantly over the rope, and dashed those who clung to it with fury against the rocks. Several poor wretches quitted their hold, and sunk amid the raging surf: others had their brains beaten out, and fell dead into the water. Many with broken or dislocated joints were assisted to rise by those who had already reached the shore. All the Officers were saved, except the Surgeon and Purser, whom no entreaties could stimulate to try the frightful means of escape. One miserable wretch, who had not courage to quit the wreck, and yet dreaded to be left alone upon it, was driven by his fears to a despair bordering on phrensy: he drew forth his knife, and, bestriding the rope, threatened instant death to any person who should endeavour

to

to pass. This was no moment to expostulate with a madman: he was instantly felled by a blow on the head; and the most daring rushed forward, to attempt the ascent. Shortly afterwards, a mountainous wave rolled over the ship, and bore the wreck into deeper water, where it instantly disappeared! Of one hundred and twenty souls, sixty were thus hurried into eternity in an instant.

The survivors passed the remainder of that dreadful night in the cavity of a rock; where the Captain, Officers, and seamen, lay huddled together in one heap, to avoid being frozen to death. The rain fell in torrents, and instantly congealed upon their garments. The intense cold added greater pain to the agony of their wounds; and many were afterwards deprived of their fingers and toes, owing to the same cause.

Of

Of the *Tweed's* convoy, the whole escaped, excepting the *Southampton*, a very fine merchant ship, laden with provisions. The crew of the latter were saved; but they afterwards underwent hardships, even greater than those experienced by the survivors from the wreck of the *Tweed*.

Such are the dangers to which all vessels are liable, in navigating the coast of NEWFOUNDLAND. The insertion of the foregoing melancholy facts will better illustrate the truth of this observation, than a mere warning sentence, which may be more easily forgotten or overlooked.

A short time after the loss of his Majesty's ship *Tweed*, our Captain was appointed *Surrogate* for the Chief Justice of *St. John's*; and one of the midshipmen was sworn in to officiate as constable or clerk. The adjustment of all cases connected with the *fisheries*

fisheries is usually confided to an officer of the navy, who annually visits the *out-harbours* for this purpose. The Admiral always selects the best-informed Captain for the fulfilment of this arduous service; and the *Surrogate* has power to levy fines under the amount of fifty or sixty pounds.

We sailed therefore from *St. John's* about the middle of *November*, upon a judiciary excursion to some of the *south-eastern* ports of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Towards the first evening after our quitting the capital, we met with his Majesty's ship *Pheasant;* and as the Captain of that ship had no specific destination, he accompanied us, for a short distance, on our voyage.

The emulation displayed by these two commanders would have afforded a considerable

siderable source of amusement to an unconcerned spectator. Both ships were crowded with canvas, to excel each other in sailing. Such was the acute observation and inquiry of Sir *Richard Keats*, that every officer under his command exerted himself to the utmost, to obtain the approbation of so distinguished and able a chief. Wherever the *head* of a department is known to be so exceedingly vigilant, the inferior officers are ever attentive and diligent in the execution of their respective duties.

At night-fall, we parted company from the *Pheasant*; and at day-break the following morning the *Rosamond* anchored in *Capelin* Bay, which is the next port to the *southward* of Cape *Broyle*.

Stone Island, *Goose* Island, and *Buoy* Island, lay directly in the mouth of *Capelin* Bay;

Bay; and there is a good channel between either of them: but there is not a sufficient depth of water for large ships between *Stone* Island and the main-land of Cape *Broyle*. A large rock, lying in the mid-channel, also contributes to render the latter an unsafe passage, even for fishing vessels.

After passing the islands, *Capelin* Bay runs in towards the *west-north-west*, to a depth of nearly six miles. A ship may sail in or out, with the wind in any direction; and the harbour is so convenient, that it has frequently been made the rendezvous for the NEWFOUNDLAND trade bound under convoy to the *Mediterranean*.

The number of excellent ports on this coast cannot be made to appear more manifest, from any circumstance, than from the few fishermen who have settled in this noble

noble bay. In some parts of the world, such a harbour would be deemed an invaluable possession; particularly as the heights might be easily fortified, so as to secure the place from any sudden attack.

On the *south* side of *Capelin* Bay, there extends a long slip of land, projecting towards the *east;* and from the extremity of this cape a string of small islets, or rather dry rocks, which separate this port from *Ferryland* Harbour.

Nothing can be more deplorable than the situation of those poor *Irishmen* who migrate annually, in great numbers, from the mother country, to NEWFOUNDLAND. In order to procure for themselves a passage across the *Atlantic,* they enter into a bond with the master of a trading vessel; whereby they stipulate to pay him a certain sum as passage-money, immediately subsequent to their

their having obtained employment at *St. John's*. The emigrants are compelled to find securities in *Ireland*, for the due observance of their agreement; and when the vessel reaches NEWFOUNDLAND, they are suffered to go at large, in search of an employer. It must be allowed, that many of them are not over scrupulous in returning to fulfil their contract; as they hope, by absenting themselves, to avoid paying their passage-money. In such cases, the master of the trading vessel publishes the names of the absentees; with an intimation, that, on a failure of appearance, their *Irish* securities will be sued for the amount of the debt, costs of suit, and interest. The fear of involving their parents, or other relations, in a law process, seldom fails to draw forth the fugitives; when their employer instantly pays down the amount of their passage-money, and places the sum to his new servant's *debit* account.

From

From this moment the unfortunate emigrants become the vassals of their employers; as it is but rarely that they can succeed in working out their emancipation: for the slavery of the NEWFOUNDLAND fishermen, thus commenced upon their first entering the country, is perpetuated by a system of the most flagrant and shameful extortion. Every merchant, and master of a *fishery*, is the *huckster* of his whole establishment; and the servants are compelled to purchase their supplies of food, raiment, and every trifling necessary, of the person in whose service they may chance to be engaged. No money passes between them; but the account of every article that is supplied to the fishermen is entered in the books of their masters. The prices are so enormous, that the original debt due for the passage-money of the emigrants, instead of being *diminished* by the hardest and most faithful servitude, continues rapidly to *increase*.

It

It is in vain that the unfortunate debtor complains of the barefaced imposition, by which he is forced to pay three times the value of the most trivial article: having no money, he cannot go elsewhere to obtain what he may want, nor can he subsist without the necessaries of life. Thus, then, the NEWFOUNDLAND fisherman toils from day to day, with no relaxation for the present, and without the least hope for the future. His exertions, labours, and industry, serve but to swell the purse and the pride of a rapacious master; until death happily intervenes, and cancels all accounts betwixt them. Those only are gainers by the *fisheries* who are able to employ people on their own service, and have the means of conveying the produce of their labours to *St. John's* for a market.

The preceding observations on the distresses of the *Irish* fishermen have been inserted

inserted in this place, that it may not be supposed the author intended to allude to the merchants of any particular port in NEWFOUNDLAND. There are doubtless many exceptions to the character here drawn of the masters of *fisheries;* but general fidelity of description is not to be invalidated by partial distinctions; and those who know themselves to be superior to the extortionate rapacity of such men, will bear witness that the foregoing representation has not been exaggerated.

The day after our arrival in *Capelin* Bay, our Captain proceeded in a boat to the town of *Ferryland:* and as some of the Officers also entertained a wish to see the latter place, we made an excursion over land for this purpose. A pathway through the woods is the only road between the two harbours; and this path is, in many places,

places, so swampy, that we journeyed with considerable difficulty. The bogs and quagmires were here and there covered with branches of trees. We noticed all those kinds of trees which are peculiar to the forests of *North America;* such as, the fir, poplar, birch, willow, larch, alder, and spruce. Of the latter, there are many species; and a decoction of its bark affords a wholesome beverage to the inhabitants of NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR. The young shoots and tender branches of the spruce-tree are usually selected for this purpose, and boiled in water until the bark may be rubbed off by the hand; the branches are then taken out, and a proportion of molasses added to the liquor. In this state it is put into an open cask, and left to cool; when it is considered fit for use. This sort of drink is not very palatable upon a first trial; but it is said to become more agreeable to the taste after

after a person has accustomed himself to the use of it.

There is a bird very common in the woods of this country, which is called by the settlers, "a spruce partridge." Its flesh is of a disagreeable bitter taste, supposed to be occasioned by its feeding upon the bark of the spruce-tree. In colour, shape, and size, it resembles the common partridge of *England*; but differs from the latter, by perching on the branches of trees, and in being so very tame as frequently to be knocked down with a pole. We shot some of these birds on our journey to *Ferryland*: they were exceedingly bitter when roasted; but when cooked as a *fricasee*, they lost this disagreeable quality, and became perfectly well tasted and savoury.

We arrived at *Ferryland* about ten o'clock

o'clock in the forenoon, and were surprised to find all the people of the place in their best attire, as if it had been the day of the Sabbath. Men, women, and children, were flocking in a body towards a large edifice upon the side of a hill. Conjecturing this to be a place of worship, we ascended with the crowd, and entered the building pell-mell with them. Here we were astonished at seeing our worthy Captain placed in a high-railed pew; by the side of a short squab man, in a green coat, with a pair of large spectacles upon his nose. On the Captain's left hand, ten or eleven decent-looking men were huddled together in a sort of pound, with scarcely sufficient room to turn themselves. A moment's observation convinced us, that we had entered the *Surrogate Court* of Justice; that the people in the pound were *Jurors;* and that the little man in green was the *Magistrate,* of *Ferryland.*

At the moment of our intrusion, the Court was occupied in the trial of an *Irish* fisherman, who, after labouring hard for five or six months, had, it appeared, been brought thither by his master, to shew cause why he should not forfeit the whole of his *nominal* wages, because he became intoxicated towards the latter end of the *fishing* season. The law was evidently on the master's side; and the *Jurors* were all masters themselves. The poor fellow was found *guilty*, in the fullest extent of the word; but the Jury were desired by the Captain to re-consider their verdict; they did so, and returned the same result. Our Captain then, as *Judge*, proceeded to pass sentence upon the culprit, in the following words:—"Prisoner, you have been found "guilty, after the most mature deliberation, of unruly and disorderly conduct. "The law, in such a case, warrants the "Court to cancel all your claims for wages; "but,

" but, in consideration of your former in-
" dustrious character, of your large family,
" and *of your master having himself supplied*
" *the means of intoxication*, you are hereby
" sentenced to be mulcted of only one half
" of your wages, as a penalty for your
" drunkenness and misconduct." The effect produced by this righteous judgment was instantaneous: the countenances of the *fishermen* brightened, whilst those of the *Masters* fell. The former were brightened by the smiles of gratitude and joy: the latter bore the deeper tints of irritation and discontent. Our good Captain manifested the same impartiality and lenity, throughout the whole line of his judicial career; and persevered to the last in the humane system of tempering justice with mercy. It was in vain that the Masters of the *Fisheries* fawned, or frowned: he neither suffered himself to be seduced by the

treachery of the one, nor alarmed by the menaces of the other. After the whole business of the Court was concluded, he refused all solicitations to enter the houses of the opulent; and returned in his boat, to enjoy the satisfaction which results from conscious rectitude, on board the *Rosamond*.

After leaving the *Surrogate Court*, we strolled down the hill, and went to see the harbour of *Ferryland*. The inner part of this port is as secure from all winds and waves as a bason or dock; and it is therefore called, by the inhabitants, "The *Pool*." The mouth of *Ferryland* harbour is narrow, but not dangerous: the tides rise three, four, and sometimes five feet; and this is the case all along the *south-east* coast of *Newfoundland*. There is a sufficient depth of water in *Ferryland* harbour for

for the reception of large merchant vessels; and even ships of war have wintered in the *Pool**.

It has been already observed, that NEWFOUNDLAND was first colonized by Sir *George Calvert*, Secretary of State to *James* the *First*†: and in *Whitbourne*'s Discovery there are three letters from the first settlers, Captains *Edward Wynne* and *Daniel Powell*. *Wynne* was appointed Governor of the colony at *Ferryland*; and *Powell* established himself at a bay to the *southward*, called *Aquafort*. It is evident, by their letters, that these men were either fools or knaves; that they were either misled by a false judgment in their favourable accounts of NEWFOUNDLAND, or that they purposely wrote a deceptive description of the country to deceive their patron.

* His Majesty's ship *Hazard* lay in *Ferryland Pool* during the whole winter of 1812.

† See page 38, Chapter II.

Ferryland was the first place in *Newfoundland* which could boast of permanent inhabitants from *Europe*, and the beauties of the place have been thus glowingly pourtrayed by Captain *Wynne*:—

"We haue Wheat, Barly, Oates and "Beanes both eared and codded,—We "haue also a plentifull Kitchen-Garden of "many things, and so ranke, that I haue "not seene the like in England. Our "Beanes are exceeding good: our Pease "shall goe without compare; for they are "in some places as high as a man of an "extraordinary stature: Raddish as big as "mine arme: Lettice, Cale or Cabbedge, "Turneps, Carrets and all the rest is of "like goodnesse. We haue a Medow of "about three Acres; it flourished lately "with many cockes of good hay, and is "now made vp for a Winter feeding.—— "touching this Countrey, the Summer-

"time

"time heere is so faire, so warme, and of "so good a temperature, that it produceth "many herbes and plants very wholesome, "medicinable and delectable, many fruit "trees of sundry kinds, many sorts of "Berries wholesome to eate, and in mea-"sure most abundant; in so much as many "sorts of birds and beasts are relieued "with them in time of Winter, and where-"of with further experience I truste to "finde some for the turne of Dyers."—"Our high leuels of Land are adorned "with Woods, both faire and seemely to "behold, and greene all Winter. Within "Land there are Plaines innumerable, many "of them containing many thousand Acres, "very pleasant to see to, and well fur-"nished with Ponds, Brookes, and Riuers, "very plentifull of sundry sorts of fish, "besides store of Deere, and other beasts "that yeeld both food and furre. Touch-"ing the soyle, I finde it in many places,

"of

"of goodnesse farre beyond my expecta-
"tion: the earth as good as can be: the
"grasse both fat and vnctious*."

Had the foregoing letter been dated from some one of the most fertile provinces in *France* or *Italy*, we might not have supposed the writer to be guilty of exaggeration. But his description is both fallacious and absurd, as applied to the bleak and sterile coast of NEWFOUNDLAND. We found, indeed, that the original colony of *Ferryland* had increased in size to the level of a large and respectable *English* village; but the soil around the place was slaty, and destitute of all vegetation. At a short distance from *Ferryland* arise lofty mountains, composed of argillaceous *schistus*, which are bare, even to their summits. Beyond these, the woods, swamps, and quagmires of the interior

* See Letter of Captain *Edward Wynne*, to the Right Honourable Sir *George Calvert*, in *Whitbourne's* "*Discourse and Discovery of Newfoundland.*"

interior are found to commence and continued

Captain *Wynne* could only have been induced to make such a shameful misstatement of facts, in the prospect of some immediate object of aggrandizement or gain. He must naturally have concluded that *George Calvert* would seek a confirmation of his agent's accounts from persons who had also visited NEWFOUNDLAND. The following passage in *Wynne's* letter evidently proves that he felt some apprehensions of being detected in his imposture.

"The Vines that came from *Plimmouth*, "doe prosper very well: nay, it is to be "assured, that any thing that growes in "*England*, will grow and prosper very "well here: whereby it plainely appeares "vnto your Honour, what manner of "Countrey

" Countrey the same is. *Therefore it may*
" *please you to giue credit vnto no man that*
" *shall seeme to vrge the contrary.* And for
" my part, seeing that by the prouidence
" of God and your Honours meere fauour
" towards me, this imployment is falne to
" my lot, I trust that neither Gods grace in
" me, nor the experience that I haue gained
" by the trauels of my youth, will suffer
" me to wrong your Honour. *Farre be it*
" *from mee to goe about to betray you and*
" *my Countrey*, as others haue done that
" have beene imployed in the like trust."
" I trust also, that what I haue vndertaken
" either by word or writing, will bee found
" the Characters of a true and zealous
" minde, wholy deuoted vnto your Honours
" seruice, the good of my poore distressed
" Countrimen, and to the aduancement of
" Gods glory."

Had this man been perfectly at ease, respecting

respecting the rectitude of his principles, and the accuracy of his reports, he would have been less solicitous in thus fencing the truth of his statement with specious assurances.

Observing very little else worth notice in *Ferryland*, we returned on board in the evening; and the following morning the *Rosamond* sailed from *Capelin* Bay. On leaving this port, the coast towards the *south* appears to be split into a number of deep cracks; the fissures of which form a line of noble harbours, extending the whole distance from Cape *Race* to *Ferryland* Head. Amongst the most conspicuous of these, we may enumerate *Renowes*, *Fermowes*, and *Aquafort*.

Towards the *north* of *Capelin* Bay rises the majestic promontory of Cape *Broyle;* and farther on, the coast exhibits a flat *wall* of rock, until, again trending inwards, it

it forms *Witless* Bay, where there lies a dangerous ledge of sunken rocks.

The course from Cape *Broyle* to the *south* head of the Bay of *Bulls* is exactly *north-north-east* half *east*; and the distance is about five leagues. There are a few small islands lying along-shore between those two places, the most considerable of which are, *Foxes*, *Gull*, and *Green* islands.

We anchored in the Bay of *Bulls* on the morning subsequent to our leaving *Capelin* Bay; and our Captain immediately went on shore, to hold a *Surrogate Court* for the administration of justice.

The distance between the two promontories forming the Bay of *Bulls* is not more than a mile and a quarter, or thereabouts; and from those capes the bay runs in, *west-north-west*, for nearly two miles. On the

north

north side there is a projection of land, called *Bread and Cheese* Point, with a sunken rock lying off, at the distance of three hundred and sixty-five yards. Every other part of the port is perfectly free from obstruction or danger. A ship of war, entering the Bay of *Bulls*, should anchor a little within the *Bread and Cheese* Point, where she will find fourteen or fifteen fathoms water; but merchant vessels anchor higher up the bay, towards the river's mouth, in from five to six fathoms water. Ships of war ride with about three points of the compass open towards the sea; but merchantmen lie with only one point exposed.

In 1762, the *French* made a descent from the Bay of *Bulls*. They were commanded by Monsieur *De Ternay*, and rapidly made themselves masters of *St. John's*, the capital of the island. But the invaders were quickly

quickly compelled to evacuate their conquest, by an inferior naval and military force commanded by Lord *Colville* and Colonel *Amherst*.

The *fishing* establishments in this bay can hardly be said to merit the title of a town, although they be superior to the generality of NEWFOUNDLAND villages, in cleanliness, order, and regularity. There is here a decent hall for the reception of the *Surrogate Court*; and many of the houses are neat and commodious; but they are all built of wood, and weather-boarded. On the *north* side of the bay, several wooden quays project into the water; and many light merchant vessels were busily employed alongside of them. Ships bound from hence to *Europe*, take on board about half their cargo at the quays, when they are compelled by the shoalness of the water to haul out farther into the bay,

and

and the remaining part of their burthen is conveyed on board by large boats.

The day after our arrival at the Bay of *Bulls*, the author, accompanied by a few of his brother officers, proceeded upon a shooting excursion into the country. After roaming for a considerable distance through woods and by the shores of small lakes, we came at length to an open swampy plain, covered with furze and prickly shrubs. Here we found the *partridges* so numerous, that we each shot five or six brace, without the aid of dogs. Towards evening we returned to the ship, completely exhausted by our long ramble through the woods and morasses of the interior.

The following morning we sailed from the Bay of *Bulls*, with a slight breeze at the *south-east*: and our Captain, being very anxious to get back again to *St. John's*, we ran in, and anchored there at midnight.

CHAP. X.

FROM ST. JOHN'S TO ENGLAND.

Anxiety of the Crew—Preparations for sailing—Custom respecting Passengers—Desultory Observations—Sail from St. John's—*Part from the Admiral—Dispositions for Defence—Storm—Part from the Convoy—Colonel* Grant—*Finesse of a Frenchman—Prize—Anchor at* Spithead.

It was now the beginning of *December*, and winter began to set in with great rigour. The anxiety of our officers and seamen to return to *England* was augmenting daily; and their apprehensions had been much excited, by a report of the *Rosamond*'s having been selected by the Admiral to lie at an out-harbour until the following spring. In fact, Sir *Richard Keats* had such a measure in contemplation;

as

as he very justly thought it necessary to station a respectable naval force for the protection of the island, in consequence of the boldness displayed by some of the *American* squadrons. His Majesty's frigate the *Crescent* was therefore ordered to winter in *St. John's* Harbour; his Majesty's ship *Pheasant*, at *Ferryland*; and our ship was to have been sent for the same purpose to *Placentia*; but, in consequence of some severe domestic calamities having occurred in the family of our worthy Captain, the Admiral kindly consented that we should return with him to *England*, provided any other man of war could be found to supply the place of the *Rosamond*.

Day succeeded day, and no other vessel arrived; and as the Admiral's convoy was now nearly ready for departure, we began to give up all hope of leaving the country;

when, to our great joy, we were awakened one night by the firing of guns at the harbour's mouth. We all conjectured that a fresh ship had arrived from *England*, to succeed the *Rosamond:* nor were we disappointed; the reports were found to proceed from the guns of his Majesty's ship *Prometheus*; and on the following morning we began, with great alacrity, to prepare for leaving the island of *Newfoundland.*

It surprised us much, that although we had never previously received much attention from the Merchants of *St. John*'s, yet it was no sooner publickly announced that the *Rosamond* was bound for *England*, than cards of invitation showered upon our officers from all directions. The mystery was however speedily explained. Some of us visited a few tea-parties, where we were immediately assailed by a hundred applications

applications from persons who wished for a conveyance in our ship across the *Atlantic*. Not feeling particularly grateful for the hospitality which had originated in such interested motives, we came to a resolution, neither to enter their houses, nor to receive any of them on board as passengers. We were however afterwards given to understand, that the practice of granting the *Newfoundland* merchants a passage in King's ships, during war, had grown, from habit, into a sort of established custom; and we therefore submitted to the reception of six or seven interlopers of this kind, to avoid the imputation of an affected singularity.

The foregoing description of *Newfoundland* will be concluded by a few desultory observations, that have been omitted in their proper places.

A Committee of Merchants at *St. John*'s regulates the affairs of commerce, and makes application to the Admiral for the appointment of convoys when they are required. While we lay there in the *Rosamond*, the President of this Committee was an *Irishman* of low origin, who had been a serjeant in the rebel army at the battle of *Vinegar Hill*.

There is a public Reading-room in *St. John's*, to which any subscriber may introduce the non-resident officers of the army or navy, who from thenceforth are considered as honorary members of the Society. The whole of the *English* Daily Papers, the *St. John*'s *Gazette*, and most of the *British* Monthly Publications, are here to be met with.

There is but little religion in the capital of *Newfoundland*; but the inhabitants profess to belong either to the *Protestant* or to the

the *Catholic* Church. There is a Church for the use of the former, and a Chapel for those of the latter persuasion.

The coin of *Great Britain* and the *Spanish* dollar are current in *Newfoundland*; but there is such a deficiency of specie, that almost every merchant issues notes in lieu of cash. This paper currency is the principal circulating medium of the country; and the notes are from five pounds to five shillings in value.

The enormous gains of the *Newfoundland* merchants has been already noticed; and the following anecdote may serve as an illustration of the fact. During the time of our stay in this country, a merchant of considerable respectablity confessed to the author, that he should clear 2000*l.* by the produce of the *fishing*-season!—This assertion, of course, excited much surprise; but

but the merchant undertook, without the least hesitation, to point out the sources whence such extraordinary profits were derived.

First.—The *cod*-fish and *oil* procured by his own fishermen.

Secondly.—The great profit on *cod*-fish purchased of different petty Boat Masters along the coast, who have not themselves the means of conveying their produce to *St. John's.* For the fish obtained in this manner, he usually paid about 20 shillings *per quintal,* when the same quantity was worth 1*l.* 12*s.* in the market of *St. John's;* and if sent to *Portugal,* could be sold at 2*l.* 2*s. per quintal.*

Thirdly.—The profit arising from supplying the petty Boat Masters with provisions for the winter, clothing, powder, shot, and salt, at *triple* prices.

Fourthly,

Fourthly.—The produce of a large *salmon fishery*, amounting annually to two hundred tierces.

Fifthly.—The *oil* obtained from the winter *seal-fishery*.

These were the fertile sources of his gains: his out-goings at the same time were comparatively trivial, as the fishermen in his employ were, for the most part, paid by supplies of necessaries, on which the profits were so great as almost to clear the expense of labour.

The convoy being at length prepared for sailing, and the Admiral having adjusted all Public affairs for the ensuing winter, we weighed anchor on the fourteenth of *December*, and bade a final adieu to the Harbour of *St. John's*.

During the first week after we lost sight of

of *Newfoundland*, the fleet proceeded at a moderate rate, with favourable breezes from the *north* and *west*. The Admiral, in his Majesty's ship *Bellerophon*, kept his constant station at a distance from the convoy, leaving the regulation and command of the latter to our Captain, of whose nautical abilities he justly entertained a very high opinion. His Majesty's schooner *Adonis*, commanded by Lieutenant *Buchan**, brought up the rear of the whole fleet; and by the activity of that officer, they were prevented from straggling, or falling into disorder.

We were enabled to ascertain, by our soundings, the precise time at which we crossed the outer edge of the *Great Bank*; and by a proper attention to this circumstance, our reckoning proved to be tolerably correct.

* This officer was employed, for a length of time, in surveying the Coasts of *Newfoundland*; and he has lately been promoted to the rank of Commander.

correct. Shortly afterwards, the Admiral's ship left us, and steered away in a more *southerly* direction; so that the protection of the convoy was now wholly confided to the *Rosamond* and *Adonis*.

As several *American* and *French* frigates were known to be upon the seas, Captain *Campbell* made the most judicious dispositions for the defence of his convoy. As the *Rosamond* mounted only twenty-six guns, and the *Adonis* not more than ten, it was determined, that, in the event of our falling in with an enemy's frigate, both vessels should instantly lay her on-board, and endeavour to carry the decks by storm. For this purpose, the necessary instructions were issued to Lieutenant *Buchan:* and that, in such a mingled contest, we might be able to distinguish friends from foes, each officer and sailor of the two vessels constantly wore *white scarfs* round both arms,

arms, until the *Rosamond* and *Adonis* were subsequently separated in a storm, as will hereafter be related.

We had parted from the Admiral about ten days, and were scudding along with a steady gale at the *west*, when suddenly the wind shifted into the *north-north-west*, and blew with such amazing violence, that the waves were tossed to and fro in all directions, as if the whole ocean had been boiling with subterraneous fire. The billows dashed furiously against the sides of our ship, and, breaking through the gangway boards, rushed, like a torrent, along the quarter-deck. At length this conflict of opposing waters was converted into a tremendous sea, rolling from the *north-west*; and we were compelled to set our foresail and main-topsail, to keep the ship before it.

The

The instant that we spread our canvas to the gale, the *Rosamond* appeared to fly along the deep with the rapidity of a sea-bird; and it was with regret that our Captain observed his convoy lessening gradually to the view: but such a mighty wall of water rolled after the *Rosamond,* that it would have endangered all our lives if we had shortened sail, or waited for the fleet.

We accordingly pursued our course for two days, during which neither the wind nor sea abated in the least. At the expiration of this time, it became more moderate, and we steered towards the *south,* in hopes of again meeting with our convoy. As two days elapsed, and they did not appear, we concluded that they must have passed us in the night; and we therefore stood on in an *easterly* direction, although we never afterwards obtained a sight of the fleet.

We

We had at last got well towards the *east;* and being in the latitude of *Bourdeaux*, expected every hour to fall in with an enemy's cruizer. At length, a large ship was seen on the weather-bow, to which we gave chace; and some time after dark, we came up with her. The stranger hailed us, saying they were *English,* and requesting that a boat might be sent to them. Accordingly, a young midshipman was sent on board; who soon returned, accompanied by an officer in regimentals, with a large pair of mustachios. This person requested a private audience of Captain *Campbell,* and was conducted by the latter to his cabin. Curiosity now drew all our officers towards the young midshipman; and they eagerly inquired respecting the country, business, and rank of the gentleman in mustachios. The midshipman said that he supposed the stranger to be a *Frenchman,* because his pronunciation had a strong *foreign* accent. There was much surprise and

and laughter, when it was discovered that this supposed *foreigner* was one of the most distinguished of our *Caledonian* heroes; in fact, no less a personage than the gallant Colonel *Grant**, Aid-de-camp to his Royal Highness the *Prince Regent*. This officer had sailed from *Spain*, in a ship bound for *England*, immediately subsequent to the memorable battle of the *Pyrenees;* but in entering the *British* Channel, he had been captured by two French frigates, at that time cruizing near *Scilly*. The *Frenchmen* had taken and destroyed a great number of vessels, and their ships were much encumbered with prisoners. Fortunately for Colonel *Grant*, they therefore selected his vessel to answer the purpose of a cartel, into which they huddled the whole of their *English* captives. By their so easily releasing Colonel *Grant*, it is not at all probable that they

* This officer has since been promoted to the rank of a General.

they were aware of his high rank in the *British* army.

But to return to the cause which had induced this gentleman to visit the *Rosamond*. The Colonel had seized this opportunity of communicating, to a naval commander, the weak and inefficient state of the enemy's frigates*. He had also a complaint to make against the *English* sailors who had been forced into the ship with him. As soon as the cartel had been released by the *Frenchmen*, the seamen broke open the vessel's hold, and plundered linens and cambrics to a considerable amount. These desperadoes also threatened to run the cartel on shore, to avoid being impressed on board a man of war; and to complete their misconduct, they fell to work upon the porter and hams belonging to the master of the ship,

* Both these ships were shortly afterwards captured by *British* frigates.

ship, which they wasted and devoured in a shameful manner.

On hearing this account, Captain *Campbell* determined to strengthen the *Rosamond*'s crew, by removing thirty of the leading mutineers into her; and this we accomplished before the dawn of day. Being thus stoutly manned, we left the *Cartel* ship; and at eight o'clock on the same morning we discerned another vessel to leeward. All sail was immediately made in pursuit; and we were delighted to observe that the stranger also crowded all her canvas, as if to escape. The superior speed of the *Rosamond* had so far gained on the stranger, that at four in the afternoon we hoisted our ensign, which was answered by the display of a *Portuguese* flag. However, as she did not slacken sail, we continued the pursuit until it was quite dark, when we came alongside, and our

Captain

Captain hailed, "*What ship is that?*"—"*Portugueza fregata,*" was the reply. Hereupon the stranger was ordered to shorten sail, and send his boat on board the *Rosamond;* with which he at length thought proper to comply.

When the master of the vessel came to us, he shook Captain *Campbell* very heartily by the hand, declaring, in broken *English,* that he was "*ver glad to find us friends;*" for he had at first imagined the *Rosamond* to be "*von damn Frenchesman.*" He went down to the cabin with great cheerfulness, to have his papers examined; and our First Lieutenant was sent to inspect the *apparent Portuguese* ship.

Whilst we were busily employed in securing our guns, and putting every thing in order, the First Lieutenant hailed from the strange ship, to say that she was a prize!

prize! The author immediately descended to the Captain's cabin, and informed him of this report; when the poor *Frenchman* (for such in reality he was) shrugged up his shoulders, and exclaimed, "*Ah mon Dieu!* "*'tis too true; I am no Portugueza, but a* "*French prize bound to Bourdeaux.*"

Upon an examination, the vessel in question proved to be a large and very valuable *Portugueze Brazil* ship, laden principally with cochineal, indigo, cocoa, and drugs. She had been captured by a famous *French* privateer, called the *Duchesme*; and was prosecuting her voyage to *France* at the time the *Rosamond* so providentially overtook her.

When the First Lieutenant returned, he stated, that having found all the sailors in *red caps*, similar to those worn by the *Por-*

tugueze seamen, he had very nearly become a dupe to their stratagem; but on looking into the main-hold, he distinguished a low moaning, as if proceeding from some person confined in a box. Searching farther, he discovered a man bound and gagged, whom he instantly released. The moment this poor fellow could use his tongue, he exclaimed to the officer, "Dis ship, Sare, is "von *Portugueza*; and dese rascals (point- "ing to the men in red caps) are not my "countramans, but *French* tieves, who "stoppéé my mouth, because dey 'fraid "me inform 'gainst dem."

We were employed during the whole night in securing our prisoners, and sending provisions, water, and people, on board our prize, the *Minerva*. It was well we used such expedition; as a gale came on the following morning, attended with so thick

thick a mist, that we were soon separated from the prize, and heard no more of her until the *Rosamond* arrived in *England.*

A few days subsequent to this affair, we saw a *schooner* and a *brig* to windward, which we believed to be the *Adonis,* with one of our late convoy. We afterwards learnt that our conjecture was not erroneous in this respect. At length, having had much beating about with contrary and stormy winds, we came in sight of the *Scilly* Islands; and in a few days afterwards anchored at *Spithead,* from whence the *Rosamond* had been absent nearly twelve months.

Our fears had been much excited for the safety of our convoy and the *Minerva* prize; as the enemy's cruizers absolutely swarmed about this time in the *British* Channel; and *Buonaparte,* as a dying effort against our victorious

victorious Government, had sent to sea all the *French* frigates that he could possibly muster. We were therefore much rejoiced to learn that our prize had reached *Plymouth* in safety, although she had been hotly pursued by an *American* privateer. Our convoy had been attacked by a *French* squadron; and the *Adonis* had escaped from them, by throwing her guns overboard.

A survey was held upon the *Rosamond* shortly after her arrival at *Spithead*; and as it appeared that her bottom had suffered considerable damage from the drift-ice of *Newfoundland*, the Admiralty gave orders for her to proceed round to *Plymouth*, where she was immediately taken into dock, and underwent a thorough repair.

APPENDIX.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

WRECK OF THE TRANSPORT, HARPOONER,

Near Cape Pine, in Newfoundland,
Nov. 10, 1816.

Extracted from the Daily Papers of Dec. 17, 1816.

On the 26th of *October*, detachments of the Fourth Royal Veteran Battalion, and their families, with a few belonging to other corps in *Canada*, in all 380, embarked on board the ship *Harpooner*, *Joseph Briant*, Master; and sailed from *Quebec* on the afternoon of the 27th, bound to *Deptford*; in charge of Captain *Prime*. On the passage to the Gulf of *St. Lawrence*, moderate weather and favourable winds prevailed; but on arriving in the Gulf, the weather proved boisterous, and the wind contrary: *not a sight of land, nor an observation of the sun, could be depended upon for several days.*

On

On Sunday evening, the 10th of *November*, a few minutes after nine o'clock, the Second Mate, on watch, called out, "The ship's aground!" at which time she lightly struck on the outermost rock of *St. Shott's* (near Cape *Pine*), in the Island of *Newfoundland*. She beat over, and proceeded a short distance; when she struck again, and filled. Encircled among rocks, and the wind blowing strong; the night dark, and a very heavy sea; she soon fell over on her larboard beam-ends: and, to heighten the terror and alarm, it was perceived a lighted candle had communicated fire to some spirits in the Master's cabin, which, in the confusion, was with difficulty extinguished. The ship still driving over the rocks, her masts were cut away, by which some men were carried overboard. The vessel drifted over near the high rocks towards the main. In this situation, every one became terrified; the suddenness of the sea rushing in, carried away the births and stanchions between decks, when men, women, and children were drowned; and many were killed by the force with which they were driven against the loose baggage, casks, and staves, which floated below.

All

All that were able immediately got upon deck; but, from the crowd and confusion that prevailed, the orders of the Officers and Master to the soldiers and seamen were unavailing—Death staring every one in the face—the ship striking on the rocks, as though she would instantly upset! The screeching and pressing of the people to the starboard-side was so violent, that several were much hurt.

About eleven o'clock, the boats on the deck were washed overboard by a heavy sea: but even from the commencement of the disaster, the hopes of any individual being saved were but very slight; and from this circumstance, combined with its appearing that the bottom of the ship was separating from the upper deck, while the surf beat over her most violently, it was considered as impossible. From this time until four o'clock the next morning, all on the wreck were anxiously praying for the light of day to break upon them. The boat from the stern was lowered down; when the first mate and four seamen, at the risk of their lives, pushed off to the shore. They with difficulty effected a landing on the main land, behind

behind a high rock, nearest to where the stern of the vessel had been driven. They were soon out of sight, and it was feared they were lost: but it was otherwise ordained by Providence. These deserving men, in scrambling up the rocks, made their welcome appearance. They hailed us from the top, and reported their situation; saying, to return was impossible, as the boat was staved. The log-line was thrown from the wreck, with a hope that they might lay hold of it; but darkness, and the tremendous surf that beat, rendered it impracticable. During this awful time of suspense, the possibility of sending a line to them by a *dog*, occurred to the master: the animal was brought aft, and thrown into the sea with a line tied round his middle; and with it he swam towards the rock upon which the Mate and seamen were standing. It is impossible to describe the sensations which were excited at seeing this faithful dog struggling with the waves, reaching the summit of the rock, and dashed back again by the surf into the sea, until at length, by his exertions, he arrived with the line; one end of which being on board, a stronger rope was hauled and fastened to the rocks;

and

and by this rope the seamen were enabled to drag many on shore, from the wreck.

About six o'clock in the morning of the 11th, the first person was landed by this means; and afterwards, by an improvement in rigging the rope, and placing each individual in slings, they were with greater facility extricated from the wreck: but during the passage thither, it was with the utmost difficulty that the unfortunate sufferers could maintain their hold, as the sea beat over them. Some were dragged to the shore in a state of insensibility. Lieutenant *Wilson* was lost, being unable to hold on the rope with his hands: he was twice struck by the sea, fell backwards out of the slings, and, after swimming for a considerable time amongst the floating wreck, by which he was repeatedly struck on the head, he perished! Many, who threw themselves overboard, trusting to their safety by swimming, were lost: they were dashed to pieces by the surf on the rocks, or by the floating of the wreck.

About half-past one o'clock on the afternoon of

of the 11th, nearly thirty lives were saved by the rope; several of whom were hurt and maimed. At this period, the sea beat incessantly over the wreck, and it became evident the deck was separating: and the only means of saving the distressed sufferers failed; for the rope, by constant work, and by swinging across the sharp rocks, was cut asunder! From that hour, there being no means of replacing the rope, the spectacle became more than ever terrific. The sea, beating over the wreck with greater violence, washed numbers overboard. Their heart-rending cries and lamentations were such as cannot be expressed—of families, fathers, mothers, and children, clinging together! The wreck, breaking up stern from midships and forecastle, precipitated all on it into one common destruction. Under these melancholy circumstances, 206 souls perished; and the survivors have to lament the loss of dear relatives and friends.

The Officers and men of the Royal Veteran Battalion, who were returning home after a long and arduous service in *Canada* and other remote climates, have now lost their all—the savings of many

many years—what they had looked upon with a pleasing hope of making themselves and their families comfortable with, on retiring from the service of their King and Country. By this unfortunate event, the orphan daughter of Surgeon *Armstrong* lost her father, mother, brother, and two sisters; and the wife and surviving daughter of Lieutenant *Wilson* are left wholly destitute.

The disaster was so sudden and unlooked-for, that not an article of baggage was saved; not even money, of which some had considerable sums, the produce of their effects sold at *Quebec*, which were paid for in guineas, on account of bills of exchange being attended with a loss of seven and a half per cent.: for immediately after the ship struck, she bilged and filled, drowning some, who, from motives of humanity, attempted to secure articles of dress for the females who were hurried on deck in an undressed state.

The rock which the survivors were landed upon was about a hundred feet above the water, and surrounded at the flowing of the tide. Being high water

water soon after the latter of them were saved, it was found impossible for these distressed objects to be got over to the main land until the next morning. On the top of this rock they were obliged to remain all night, without shelter, food, or nourishment, exposed to wind and rain, and many without shoes: the only comfort that presented itself was a fire, which was made from pieces of the wreck that had been washed ashore.

At day-light, on the morning of the 12th, at low water, their removal to the opposite land was effected; some being let down by a rope, others slipping down a ladder to the bottom. After they crossed over, they directed their course to a house, or fisherman's shed, distant about a mile and a half from the wreck, where they remained until the next day. The proprietor of this miserable shed not having the means of supplying relief to so considerable a number as took refuge, a party went overland to *Trepassy*, about fourteen miles distant, *through a marshy country, not inhabited by any human creature*, and the way through a morass. This party arrived at *Trepassy*, and reported

reported the event to Messrs. *Jackson, Burke, Sims,* and the Rev. Mr. *Brown,* who immediately took measures for alleviating the distress, by despatching men in their employ with provisions and spirits, to assist in bringing forward all those who could walk. Necessity prompted many to undertake this journey barefooted, as the hardships and privations they were enduring were so excessively great. On the 13th, in the evening, the major part of the survivors (assisted by the inhabitants, who, during the journey, carried the weak and feeble on their backs) arrived at *Trepassy,* where they were billeted, by order of the Magistrate, proportionally upon each house. There still remained at *St. Shott's* the wife of a Serjeant of the Veteran Battalion, who *was delivered on the top of the rocks, shortly after she was saved:*—the child and herself are doing well. A private whose leg had been broke, and a woman severely bruised by the wreck, were also necessarily left there.

Immediately after their arrival at *Trepassy,* measures were adopted for the comfort and refreshment of the detachments, and boats were provided for their

their removal to *St. John's*. This being effected, his Excellency Admiral *Pickmore*, the Governor, Major *King* commanding the troops, and the Merchants and Gentlemen of *St. John's*, most promptly and generously came forward, in the most handsome manner, to the relief of the surviving sufferers. After remaining ten days at *St. John's*, refitting the distressed with clothing and necessaries, his Excellency the Admiral chartered the *Mercury*, of *Poole*, to bring them to *Portsmouth*. On this melancholy circumstance, it is but justice to mention, that Mr. *Joseph Briant*, Master, Mr. *Atkinson*, Mate, and the seamen of the *Harpooner*, deserve great credit for their unceasing exertions: and to their labour, those that came on shore by the rope in great measure owe their safety.

The loss of the above ship was occasioned by an in-draught, supposed to be prevalent in all the gulfs and bays of *Newfoundland*.

THE END.

WATTS, Printer, Crown Court, Temple Bar.

By the same Author,

Price 12*s.* bds.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE

TO

HUDSON'S BAY

IN HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ROSAMOND:

CONTAINING

Some Account of the NORTH-EASTERN COAST of AMERICA, and of the TRIBES inhabiting that remote Region.

*** *In consequence of some hasty Animadversions in the* XXXV*th Number of the* QUARTERLY REVIEW, *on the above Work,* Lieut. CHAPPELL *addressed the following Letter to the* EDITOR, W. GIFFORD, *Esq.*

"SIR—As it is very generally admitted that you are the Editor of the *Quarterly Review*, I am compelled to infer that I am indebted to your kindness for the notice taken of my '*Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay*,' in the 35th Number of that Review, which has been lately published. Allowing this to be true, you are, of course, responsible for the gross errors and misrepresentations which are so conspicuous in the article to which I allude. As an author, I may incur peril by presuming to dispute the judgment of Mr. Gifford, even upon topics connected with my own professional duties as a seaman; but it is impossible that I can, by a timid silence, allow an opinion to prevail, that I have acquiesced in the blunders which you have committed.

"In the first place, Sir, you profess to have been disappointed in not finding in my work 'some new and striking observations upon the Geography, Hydrography, or Meteorology of a part of the Northern Seas, which of late years has not been much visited by men of nautical science.' I marvel greatly that it did not suggest itself to a person of your acute penetration, that accurate surveys of a coast cannot be made by merely sailing along it, through a sea impeded by ice. Yet what *could* be done in such a situation, *was* done. I am therefore called upon to direct your attention to a correct Table of *Soundings*, taken off York Flats, pp. 179, 180, 181; to specific Directions for *Sailing into* and *Mooring in* York River, p. 188; to an accurate Table of the Magnetic Variation, *Appendix* (A); to an account of the Currents, p. 51, which were noted with great care and caution; also to Thermometrical Observations, shewing the extreme degrees of temperature in Hudson's Bay during every month of an entire year: and I am thereby emboldened, in direct contradiction to your statement, to affirm, that, upon a perusal of my little volume, the *seaman* will find many 'hints,' upon 'professional subjects' too, not altogether unworthy

of

of his regard. At the same time, I am quite ready to allow that those 'hints' might escape the *notice*, as they would perhaps baffle the *nautical* intelligence, of a *Quarterly Reviewer*.

"Permit me, Sir, to congratulate you upon the very important discovery which you have made, that my 'Voyage, in fact, was confined to a passage to Fort York and back.' This, at least, proves that you have read the title-page of my book, where the whole of such information may have been acquired.

"The sentence following that which contains this wonderful discovery is more palpably unfounded and unjust than any thing else which you have written upon the subject. You assert that I 'could know little or nothing' of the *Esquimaux*, whose manners and customs I have endeavoured to describe. Upon what foundation you have made this unwarranted assertion, it shall be for yourself to determine; when, in reply, I proceed to state, that I had, for a considerable length of time, not only opportunities of daily intercourse with the *Esquimaux*, but that I saw them under circumstances peculiarly calculated to afford accurate information; because, by a singular instance of good fortune, I was admitted into their habitations, which had not happened to any European before, during the last forty years.

"In common with the rest of your readers, I can but admire the easy self-complacency with which you turn from my *Narrative*, to what you call 'metal more attractive;' *i.e.* metal of your own manufacturing. Now, admitting, as I am desirous of doing, in its fullest extent, the superior *attraction* of your able pen, I must regret that any purpose you may have in view should render it necessary for you to bestow upon yourself such gratuitous and open commendation; and the more so, because you have done this in a case where you are liable to just reprehension. While I acknowledge the pleasure I have experienced in reading the scientific article of which my persecuted book has been made the theme, I might, as easily as yourself, have adopted your own style of sweeping criticism; urging that you have written a long dissertation about seas 'that you never visited'— ice 'that you never saw'— and countries 'which you never approached within many thousands of miles.' Possibly, if you should hereafter cast your eyes upon '*A Voyage to Newfoundland and Labrador*,' which I am now publishing, I may receive some further proofs of the notice with which you are pleased to honour my writings: and most sincerely hoping this will be the case,

"I have the honour to be, Sir, yours, &c.

EDWARD CHAPPELL,

Lieutenant of the Royal Navy."

"*To* W. GIFFORD, *Esq.*"

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